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THE SESSION.

MANY of our contemporaries complain that Parliament has done nothing during the past Session, as though Parliament were obliged to pass so many bills every summer, just as an opera-manager is expected to bring out so many new operas. Even the Conservative journals repeat this accusation, which comes strangely from them as systematic opponents of needless change. Moreover, as Mr. Cobden remarked in the debate on Danish affairs, the present Government has been doing the work of the Conservatives as well as they could have done it themselves. Thus it negatived Mr. Locke King's motion for the reduction of the county franchise, and threw out Mr. Baines's bill for the reduction of the borough franchise; while Lord Palmerston, on the former of these occasions, declared himself opposed to all organic changes not called for by some evident defect in the existing Legislature; such, for instance, as would be shown by unwillingness or incapacity to undertake definite reforms in legal, commercial, or other internal

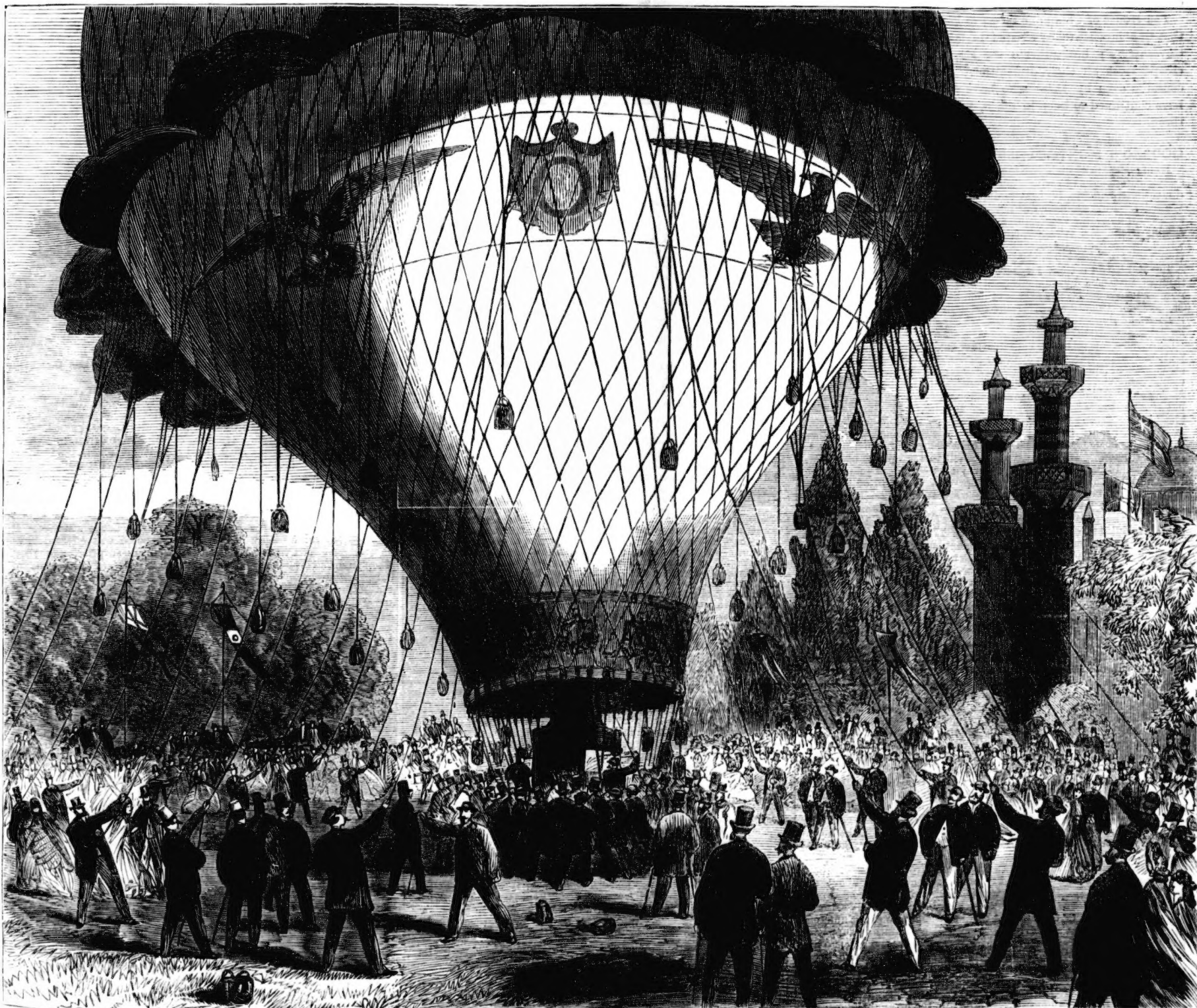
matters. But has not the desirability of such reforms to be decided by Parliament itself? Hence it would follow that, as long as Parliament sees nothing to improve, the constitution of Parliament itself need undergo no change. Moreover, to apply Lord Palmerston's principle in another manner, the unreformed Parliament of 1829 must have been all that could be wished for as it stood; for, in common with all the intelligence of the country, it *did* see a great improvement to effect, and effected it, when it passed one of the most excellent measures that has been adopted for the last fifty years—that of the emancipation of our Roman Catholic fellow-subjects. In the mean while, whatever the true theory of Parliamentary reform may be, we may be sure that we shall not have much of the thing itself from Lord Palmerston's Government.

In the way of definite reform, however, we have had a reduction of a penny in the pound in the income tax, and the sugar duties have been diminished. We do not know whether the passing of the organ-grinders' bill can, strictly speaking,

be called a reform, but it at least involves an agreeable change—an "organic" change, acceptable enough in itself, without reference to its ultimate results. One quite unexpected effect produced by the adoption of this bill has been an agitation against the cackling of London hens and the crowing of London cocks. The attack on the London poultry was made in the columns of the *Times*, but the Sybarite who commenced it has, with characteristic want of vigour, omitted to follow it up.

A bill for shutting up public-houses between the hours of one and four in the morning is another of the minor measures passed this Session which the community will generally approve of.

All the important debates, however, have turned on questions of foreign and colonial policy. The Government has been called to account for burning Kagosima, for allowing Denmark to be partitioned, for abandoning Poland, and for carrying on an unjust war against the Maoris of New Zealand,



THE SECOND ASCENT OF THE GODARD MONTGOLFIER BALLOON FROM CREMORNE GARDENS.

Ashantee, Brazil, China, and the civil war in America have also furnished subjects for discussion. As to the dark affair of Kagosima, it was pleaded, first, that Lord Russell knew very little about the place (which no one ever doubted); secondly, that the population of that city was much smaller than had been represented; thirdly, that all the population left the city before the bombardment took place; fourthly, that the city was made of pasteboard, and since the bombardment had been rebuilt; and, fifthly, that it would not do to issue orders to admirals on distant stations and then censure them for carrying them into execution. It was this last argument, we fancy, that impressed the House of Commons, and Earl Russell was acquitted that Admiral Kuper might not seem to be blamed.

With reference to the Danish and Polish questions, we need not add anything to what we have already said over and over again, or to what Polonius said, some time before us, on the subject of disputes in general. Earl Russell will neither beware of entering upon a quarrel, nor, having entered upon it, does he bear it so as to make offenders beware of him. His kindness is worse than his enmity, and, as a rule, those nations alone have to complain of him whose interests he has undertaken to defend. Such, at least, has been the case in Europe, where there are several great military despotisms to count with. In Asia, Africa, and Australia it is very different; and there, as there is nothing to fear, the honour of England seems to require that we should be perpetually at war. At the last moment there is always something to be said on behalf of Austria, Russia, and Prussia, and against the hot-headedness of the Italians, the restlessness of the Poles, and the imprudence of the Danes. But the Brazilians are incorrigible, and the only thing to do with them when they insult a British officer is to seize their fleet; while the Japanese, the Chinese, and even the unfortunate Maoris are equally perverse, and must, on the smallest pretext, be treated with still greater severity. It has lately been laid down as a principle that in Europe it is absurd for England to give aid to nations too weak to defend themselves, while, if they are sufficiently strong without us, they, of course, need no assistance. If no false chivalry urges us to defend the weak in Europe, it is equally true that no feeling of the kind prevents us from attacking them in other parts of the globe.

The House of Commons seems to have felt strongly enough that this inconsistency existed in the foreign policy of the Government; but hitherto the Ministers have managed to escape from all their difficulties. They have been loudly censured even by those who have voted for them, but they have continued to keep in office, which is, after all, the great thing.

GODARD'S MONTGOLFIER BALLOON AT CREMORNE.

Balloons are quite becoming institutions, and a strife has arisen among aeronauts as to who shall construct machines of the largest dimensions, and rise highest and go furthest with their aerial conveyances. First we have our native aeronaut, Mr. Coxwell, making almost innumerable successful ascents, accompanied by his never-failing friend Mr. Glaisher, conducting diversified scientific observations as to the state of the atmosphere and other phenomena; then we were both astonished and grieved by the journey of M. Nadar in his Giant from Paris to Germany, and the mishaps and injuries sustained by the aeronaut and his fellow-voyagers; and now—not to mention the efforts of minor experimentalists—we have M. Eugène Godard's performances with his huge Montgolfier balloon at Cremorne Gardens, from which favourite place of resort he has made several ascents.

This balloon is an enormous structure, made of silk inside and very plain canvas outside, of the ordinary pear-shape, adorned with representations of the French eagle, and generally of a whitey-brown colour, except a blue border which goes round it near the top. Last year M. Nadar's "Giant" balloon was a subject of international interest, but "The Eagle" far surpasses it in size, and the following statistics go beyond the dimensions of any other balloon yet made: It is 117 ft. 7 in. in height, 95 ft. 9 in. in circumference, 300 ft. 6 in. superficial, 30,000 ft. in area, 2005 lb. in weight, 498,556 in cubic capacity, contains 4793 square yards of silk in 1910 pieces of ninety-six stripes, 14,203 ft. of stitching, ninety-six overlaps of joints 154 ft. long, making 13,848 ft. more of sewing, and 17,244 ft. of galleons, which form the network; the galleons are stitched on both sides, and contain 31,349 more feet of stitching. Twenty-four compartments in the parachute require 6824 ft. of stitching. The whole contains 69,324 ft. of stitching, requiring 2706 days of work. The valve is 4 ft. 8 in. in diameter, and the appendix is 24 ft. 5 in.; the opening of the latter is held by a wooden hoop, rigged with thirty-two cords to sustain the car, which weighs 585 lb., is dish-shaped, and 13 ft. 2 in. in diameter, with a border of 8 in.; the car is constructed of several pieces, which can be disconnected and put together again for convenience of transport. The hoop and the car are also attached by sixty-four metal cords. In the centre of the car is an 18 ft. stove, including the chimney, 980 pounds in weight, 6 ft. 6 in. in diameter, composed of three cylinders, apart from each other, invented by M. Godard with a view to counteract the effects of the radiated heat upon the occupants of the car; inside the flue is a metal colander to intercept sparks. The combustible employed for filling the balloon with heated air is rye straw, cleaned from the ears and compressed into blocks. The total weight of the balloon (including the grappling-iron cord, 400 lb.; two supplemental pumps, 150 lb.; and combustibles, 500 lb.) is 4620 lb. Such is M. Godard's gigantic aerial machine. It appears to be put together in a most substantial manner, and when fully inflated is of symmetrical proportions. The presumed advantage of returning to the Montgolfier or heated-air system is, that the inflation can be completed in less than an hour, and M. Godard says that under favourable circumstances he can fill and start in less than half an hour. With a gas-filled balloon the process of inflation is generally long and tiresome—sometimes beginning at ten o'clock in the morning and not being finished at six o'clock in the evening, the usual hour for ascending.

On the occasion of M. Godard's first ascent from Cremorne, about three weeks ago, the process of inflation commenced about six o'clock in the evening, the balloon depending from a horizontal rope attached to two masts one hundred feet high. For nearly an hour the great mass of silk, canvas, and cordage seemed to set at defiance all the exertions of a powerful furnace and an unending supply of monster bundles of the choicest straw for producing rarefied air. People were beginning to lay wagers that the great French Eagle was overweighted in her construction, and would fail to use her wings. The heavy-looking exterior of the balloon and the iron-work inside warranted doubts as to the practicability of the ascent. It was not until the immense mass rose from the ground and swayed to and fro before the spectators, that public confidence began to

revive. At a quarter to eight the whole fabric stood up amongst the trees and poles of the crowded ground, and the ropes that held it to the earth were cut away one by one. M. Godard ran rapidly round the solid wicker car, shouting orders through a speaking-trumpet. Several gentlemen took their places in the car, while many were left behind, who had purchased seats, but who had doubts at the eleventh hour. The last rope was cut away, and the huge balloon rolled rather than rose towards the east side of the gardens. Here it met a firm, lofty pole, to which some of its detaining ropes had been attached, and this pole was bent upon the creaking roof of a theatrical Swiss cottage, which broke in like a piece of ornamental pastry. For a few seconds the balloon seemed to return to the gardens, and to descend towards the grass, while the stokers were seen desperately throwing the small trusses of compressed straw into the mouth of the fiery furnace. M. Godard vociferated through his trumpet. The excitement caused several ladies to faint, and a portion of the crowd to rush panic-stricken towards the hotel. In less than a minute, however, "The Eagle" had regained buoyancy, and rose with extraordinary steadiness above the lofty trees of the gardens. Her appearance was peculiar, as she had no variegated stripes of colour, like the ordinary oil-skin balloons; the yellow furnace gleamed just above the travellers and under her neck, and numbers of small straw trusses hung dangling underneath her car. The balloon safely descended at Greenwich.

M. Godard made his second and deferred ascent on the night of Thursday, the 28th ult., before at least ten thousand persons. The wind had been somewhat high during the afternoon, and had not fallen much during the evening, but the furnace was lighted shortly before seven o'clock, and in less than an hour the vast and graceful structure stood up in the grounds, ready to mount with its passengers. Before the ascent could be made the balloon had to be guided to a spot comparatively free from trees and poles, and this caused much excitement amongst the crowd, who appeared to be attracted by and yet afraid of the machine. Nothing can well be imagined more impressive than this huge globe swaying to and fro amongst the crowd, and dragging with it a roaring furnace which shoots up flames through a gauze screen at the top of a large funnel into its dark and yawning interior. The heat sent out from the furnace holes and the interior of the balloon is very great—so great that the few who stood near the car just before the balloon started felt their faces scorched. The side of the balloon caught fire just before the ropes were cut away, but the slight flames were speedily put out with cans of water by M. Godard's workmen. Only one passenger, besides the aeronaut and his assistants, ascended. The ascent was cleverly managed, and the balloon appeared to have more buoyancy than it had when it ascended before. It took an easterly direction. M. Godard ascended to a great height, and lost sight of the earth for a considerable time. He descended in safety at Woodford, after a very pleasant journey of forty minutes.

On Wednesday evening M. Godard made another ascent in his huge Montgolfier or heated-air balloon from Cremorne Gardens, in the presence of some thousands of people. From the same place, and at the same time, Mr. Adams ascended in a balloon called "The Prince of Wales," which was inflated by gas in the ordinary way; but the two, in point of size and appearance, were out of all comparison, and the interest of the spectators was almost exclusively concentrated on that of M. Godard, in reference to which the other looked like a mere satellite. The vast difference in size between the two might have induced the belief that the English balloon had been selected to set off by contrast the magnificent proportions of the other, which would not have been so striking if the larger balloon of Mr. Coxwell had been put in comparison with it. About three quarters of an hour in the whole were consumed on Wednesday evening in the process of inflation, which was watched with eager interest by the crowd. The stokers kept constantly feeding the furnace, in the interval, with the compressed straw, until the huge mass was completely distended. There was a brisk wind, and at one time the balloon swayed much to and fro in the process of inflation, and looked as if it would break away from its moorings. At length, all being ready, M. Godard, accompanied by several gentlemen, entered the car, and the balloon rose amid the enthusiastic cheers of the crowd. A moment or two before that Mr. Adams, in his gas balloon, had shot into the air with the rapidity almost of a rocket, which had a rather ludicrous effect in comparison with the stately ascent of the other. He soared to a great height compared with M. Godard and his companions, who appeared to be just at a convenient altitude for taking a bird's-eye view of London. Both balloons took an easterly course, that of M. Godard diverging rather more towards the north than the other, and both were watched with much interest by the crowd at the starting-point until they passed out of sight. The Godard balloon descended on the marshes of the River Lea, near Walthamstow. It ascended again and proceeded from Mr. Boston's to Mr. Tasker's farm, where the grappling-irons were thrown out and caught a tree. The balloon then swayed about with great violence against the tree, the branches of which it broke. Serious damage was done to the balloon and car. Some of the party in the car jumped out as it was descending, and one had his leg sprained, while another was cut about the face and hands, not, it is believed, seriously.

COTTON-PLANTING IS BEING VIGOROUSLY PROSECUTED IN TAHITI several thousand acres having been placed under this crop, and steam-engines, guns, and presses having been got ready for cleaning and preparing the produce for market.

THE GLUCKSBURG FAMILY AND THE SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN QUESTION.—The present King of Denmark has three brothers older than himself—Duke Charles of Glücksburg, Prince Frederick, a retired Captain of cavalry, and Prince William, a General in the Austrian service. His two younger brothers, Duke and John, were formerly Majors in the Prussian army. During the last war of Schleswig-Holstein, King Christian was the only one of the brothers that sided with Denmark, and it was mainly to that circumstance that he owed being called to the Throne, in virtue of the Treaty of London. Prince William took part, as Colonel of an Austrian regiment, in the occupation of Holstein in 1851. Prince Charles, married to a daughter of Frederick VI. of Denmark, was the first to protest, in concert with the father of the present Duke of Augustenburg and the Prince of Augustenburg-Noer, the brother of the latter, against Christian VIII.'s letter-patent in 1846. When the Prince of Augustenburg-Noer gave in his resignation as general and governor of the duchies, Duke Charles at the same time tendered his grade of general in the Danish army. Whilst, however, the former assumed the command of the troops of Schleswig-Holstein at Ban and Flensburg in 1848, and undertook the provisional government for a short time, Duke Charles remained, as he has since done, in private life. He has, however, protested against the claim of the Grand Duke of Oldenburg, and supports the right of succession of the Prince of Augustenburg. Duke Charles by so doing took the part of a Prince of a more distant line in opposition to his own brother. During the Danish rule in Schleswig-Holstein, between 1853 and 1863, he resided sometimes at the palace of Kiel and sometimes at Louisenlund, near Schleswig.

KIDNAPPING JEWISH CHILDREN AT ROME.—A little boy, son of a Jewish mechanic, is reported to have been carried off by a priest, and to be now kept in monkish custody for the good of his soul in despite of the appeals of his parents. Unless there be gross exaggeration in the statements of the Turin journal, this is even a more unjustifiable and disgraceful transaction than the kidnapping of the Mortara boy. It is affirmed that not only the parents, but the whole Jewish community of Rome, appealed for the restoration of the child (decoyed by a shameful stratagem); but that the answer was an emphatic declaration that the claims of the boy's salvation superseded the rights of father and mother. The case, if it prove to be true, is certain to produce a profound sensation throughout Europe, and likely to damage seriously the Papal Government.

PARTY FEELING IN INDIANA.—A most painful tragedy occurred near Manckport, Harrison County, Indiana, one Sunday lately. A young lady named Miller went to the church wearing some sort of a Confederate emblem. This created a considerable feeling among some of the Republican ladies of the congregation. After the services were over, Mrs. Timberlake, niece of Colonel John Timberlake, volunteered to go and take away the emblem. She rushed towards Miss Miller, and a general fight ensued among the women, when Colonel John Timberlake came into the crowd, apparently much excited. A secessionist, named Henry Lohmire, who accompanied Miss Miller to the church, warned Timberlake not to interfere. Timberlake replied to Lohmire, "You are nothing but a d-d rebel, anyhow;" whereupon Lohmire drew a pistol and shot twice, both shots taking effect. The first ball passed through Timberlake's hand and into his shoulder, the second entered his side, and passed through his heart, causing instant death. Lohmire was arrested and put in the goal at Corydon.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

There is little news of interest from Paris. The papers are principally occupied in discussing the terms of peace granted by Austria and Prussia to Denmark, which they stigmatise as excessively severe.

The Emperor has addressed a letter to Marshal Vaillant, dated Vichy, July 31, concerning the re-building of the Opera-house and the Hôtel Dieu hospital. His Majesty says the Opera-house is already in an advanced state, but the first stone of the Hôtel Dieu has not yet been laid. Marshal Vaillant is therefore instructed to urge the Prefect of the Seine to commence shortly the works of the Hôtel Dieu, as his Majesty, on moral grounds, considers that it is in the highest degree important that a building devoted to pleasure should not be constructed before an asylum for the suffering.

TUNIS.

The Tunisian insurrection has been brought to a close by a timely and reasonable concession on the part of the Government. A reduction of taxation has been agreed upon, and the consequence is that the principal tribes who were in revolt have sent in their submission, whilst the chief of the insurgents is permitted to leave the regency and go into voluntary exile. The Bey, however, is said to be enrolling fresh troops, principally Europeans, with a view, it is supposed, to be in a better position to deal with discontent among his subjects in future.

DENMARK AND GERMANY.

The preliminary treaty of peace between Denmark and the great German Powers has been signed. The following are the terms granted to Denmark:—"Lauenburg, Schleswig, and Holstein to be ceded to the two great German Powers. The island of Arro to remain with Denmark; Alsen, however, and the islands in the North Sea, to go with Schleswig. On account of the Danish *enclaves* in Schleswig, a rectification of the Jutland frontier will take place." An armistice is to remain in force until the final conclusion of peace. During the armistice Jutland is to be occupied and governed by the allies.

The occupation of Rendsburg by the Prussians has caused considerable dissatisfaction among the smaller German Powers. The Bavarian Government has instructed its representative at Frankfurt to propose that the Diet should demand the immediate withdrawal of the Prussian troops from Rendsburg, and the restoration of the previous state of things in that town. The Saxon Chamber of Deputies, at its sitting on Monday, passed the following resolution:—"That the occupation of Rendsburg by Prussian troops, which has taken place by the abuse of an overwhelming force, is a violation of the rights of the German Confederation and an outrage upon the honour of the German Federal troops. The Chamber hereby enters a protest against this act of violence on the part of a German Federal Power."

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

WAR NEWS.

Our intelligence from New York extends to the afternoon of the 23rd ult.

Latest advices from General Grant's army disclose no events of importance. The Confederates were endeavouring to blockade the James River by planting heavy batteries below City Point, with a view to cut off Grant's communication by water. On the 19th ult. a number of Georgia and Alabama troops are said to have deserted to the Federal lines. On the night of the 20th the Confederate batteries opened a heavy fire, which was returned with vigour. On the morning of the 20th the Federal batteries opened on the city and reduced the dépôt of the Weldon Railroad to ruins. General Grant's lines are said to have been somewhat contracted; but the siege of Petersburg was to be vigorously prosecuted.

The Confederates are reported to have retired entirely from Maryland, though rumours were current of a fresh invasion by way of Muddy Branch and Rockville, while another force, estimated at 5000 men, was said to have recrossed the Potomac fifteen miles above Harper's Ferry. It was reported that General Averill, on the 19th, attacked 5000 Confederates under Early, near Winchester, killed and wounded 300, and captured 200 prisoners and four cannon. The Confederate General Lilley was made prisoner. The forces of Major-General Wright, after some skirmishing with the rear-guard of one of the retreating Confederate columns, finally overtook the main body at Purcellville, five miles from Snicker's Gap. An unsuccessful attempt was made to dislodge them by Crook's cavalry, after which General Wright threw forward several regiments to develop their strength. A heavy artillery fire, however, forced the Federals to retire. On the following morning General Wright advanced for a general attack, but found that Early had retreated during the night towards Strasburg. The pursuit was then discontinued.

From Georgia the news is more important than from Virginia. General Sherman had crossed the Chattahoochee on the 18th ult., and fought a battle in front of Atlanta on the 21st, in which he is stated to have defeated the Confederates under General Hood, who had superseded Johnston. The Confederates were driven into their fortified ones with a loss of 600 killed and 4000 prisoners, the Federal loss being 1500. A report had been in circulation that Atlanta had subsequently been abandoned by the Southerners and occupied by the Federals; but, as no official confirmation of this report had appeared, and as General Sherman was in full telegraphic communication with Washington, no reliance was placed on the statement. No details of the operations are given, but it was reported that the Federal crossing of the Chattahoochee was effected with such celerity as to take the Confederates by surprise, and that Macpherson's corps had been rapidly thrown forward on the left to Decatur, thereby severing railroad communication between Atlanta and Richmond. Sherman had dispatched a cavalry expedition, under General Rousseau, against the Southern communications of Atlanta. Forrest, with 10,000 men, was marching upon Sherman's communications. He reached Huntsville on the 16th inst. General A. J. Smith, sent from Memphis in pursuit of Forrest, had had several encounters with the Confederates in Mississippi, in which he claimed the advantage. He had, however, afterwards returned to Memphis, after having driven a Confederate force under General S. D. Lee south of Trepelo, Mississippi.

Confederate accounts claim that a large Federal force under General Elliott was attacked near Port Hudson, on the 5th, and routed with great slaughter, the roads for miles being strewn with dead negroes, horses, and arms.

A Louisville despatch of the 17th states that a Confederate force, from 5000 to 15,000 strong, commanded by General Ducker, had invaded Kentucky, and was marching northwards.

Great excitement prevailed in Missouri, and the whole State was under martial law. In the north-western countries quite a panic existed, and guerrillas were increasing in numbers to an alarming extent. One force, 500 strong, was in Clay County; another force of 400 was in Carroll County; and Thornton, with 2000 guerrillas, was marching north against Plattsburg. Another force of 1200, under Colonel Tod, was marching to invade Kansas. The State militia were reported to have joined the guerrillas in large numbers. One thousand men, under Pickler, were in South-western Missouri, and it is also reported that General Sterling Price had entered the State with 5000 men. The Union farmers were flocking to St. Joseph and other fortified posts for protection, leaving the grain unharvested.

Charleston advices to the 16th report a vigorous bombardment of Fort Sumter in progress, and that thirty or forty shells were daily thrown into the city.

GENERAL NEWS.

President Lincoln had issued a proclamation calling for half a million additional soldiers, and ordering a draught for deficiencies

on all quotas not completed by the 5th of September. The term of service for the draughted men was to be one year.

St. Louis despatches report the discovery of a wide-spread conspiracy for the formation of a North-Western Confederacy, embracing all the States in the Mississippi Valley. Several prominent citizens of St. Louis implicated had been arrested.

The cruisers sent in search of the Florida had returned, without having been able to discover that vessel. Several other ships were to be added to the pursuing squadron.

Severe drought had prevailed in the New England, middle, and most of the western States, and the crops were in consequence very seriously injured.

Colonel J. F. Jaques, of the 73rd Illinois Regiment, had recently visited Richmond, at his own request. He was clothed with no official powers, but went believing that he could personally increase the prospect of a reconciliation between the two sections. Permission to make the journey was granted by President Lincoln. Colonel Jaques remained at the Confederate capital three days, and was handsomely entertained at the Spotswood House by the Confederate authorities. He had several interviews with President Davis, Secretary Benjamin, and Commissioner Ould. It is said that Colonel Jaques met with some success in impressing his views upon Mr. Davis, who, on taking leave of him, said that, leaving out of view the present struggle, he had the highest respect for his character and humane purposes. Colonel Jaques visited the Libby and Belle Isle prisons, and reports that he was agreeably surprised at the comparatively comfortable condition of the Federal prisoners. Colonel Jaques was formerly a Methodist clergyman, and is a man of much influence and of high moral position.

COMMENCEMENT OF A PEACE MOVEMENT.

Several Northern journals were beginning to talk freely of the necessity of bringing the war to an immediate conclusion. A leading Republican journal of Boston had the following remarks:—

We presume the people of the South are satisfied that they cannot subjugate the North, and the people of the North are satisfied that they cannot subjugate the South. This being true, what becomes our duty—to stay the slaughter of men, to restore peace to the country? This is a political question, and must be decided at the polls by the voters in both sections of the country. If the press would unite upon any basis that would recommend itself to the people, there would be no difficulty in coming to an understanding upon the subject. Can we agree with the South upon any terms? Can we offer a basis of settlement which they will adopt, and which at the same time will be satisfactory to the North? For our part we see no way opened for a return of the rebel States to the Union except by and through the agency of the Constitution. They must either resume their State sovereignty and acknowledge the Federal Constitution, or they must stay where they are. If the people at the South are a unit against the return to the Federal compact, it becomes a question for us to decide how much longer we will fight to compel them to an unwilling association with us. And if we were to succeed in destroying their armies, should we then have peace upon a permanent basis? These are grave questions, and demand the serious consideration of the thinking, reflecting minds. Our object in this article is to call the attention of the press to the great duty which devolves upon them in this trying hour; ask them to discuss this matter calmly and dispassionately, with a view to concert of action; and to unite the people of the North upon some project to stop the further shedding of blood.

The *New York Herald* proposes the following question:—

If we understand the Southern leaders, they will not return to the Union upon any terms. They inaugurated the war to establish a Southern Confederacy, and will be content with nothing short of that. If this be true, can we prevent it, and compel them to a submission to the old Union? If we cannot, and the people are satisfied upon this point, it is useless to fight any longer, but hold on to what we have got, and wait for time to determine the future. . . . We warn those in power that a crisis is rapidly approaching that will hurl them from their seats, unless they bring this war to a close, or convince the people that they have the power to do so before long.

ABORTIVE NEGOTIATIONS FOR PEACE.

A curious correspondence between several distinguished Confederate agents stopping at Clifton House, Niagara Falls, on the one side, and Horace Greeley and President Lincoln on the other, has been published in *New York*. The Confederates asked Mr. Greeley to procure them a safe conveyance to Washington to consult with the President personally on terms of pacification. Mr. Lincoln replied, through Mr. Greeley, that he would grant them a safe passage if duly accredited by their Government. The Confederate agents said they had no special, but only a general mission; upon which Mr. Lincoln sent his private secretary to Mr. Greeley, with a message addressed to whom it might concern, to the effect that he could only negotiate upon the terms of a thorough restoration of the Union and the abolition of slavery. The correspondence abruptly terminated at this point, the Confederate agents refusing to enter upon a negotiation of which the basis was pre-arranged by the opposite party. The following are the most important portions of this singular correspondence:—

Clifton House, July 12.

Dear Sir,—I am authorised to say that the Hon. Clement Clay, of Ala.; Professor J. B. Holcomb, of Virginia; and G. N. Saunders, of Dixie, are ready and willing to go at once to Washington upon complete and unqualified protection being given by the President or the Secretary of War. Let the permission include the three names and one other.—Yours, &c.,

To Hon. H. Greeley.

(Signed)

GEO. N. SAUNDERS.

Niagara Falls, July 17.

Gentlemen,—I am informed that you are duly accredited from Richmond as the bearers of propositions looking to the establishment of peace; that you desire to visit Washington in fulfilment of your mission, and that you further desire that G. N. Saunders shall accompany you. If my information be thus far substantially correct, I am authorised by the President of the United States to tender you his safe conduct on the journey proposed, and to accompany you at the earliest time that will be agreeable to you.—I have the honour to be, &c.,

(Signed) H. GREELEY.

To Messrs. C. C. Clay, Jacob Thomson, and J. B. Holcomb.

Executive Mansion, Washington, 18th.

To whom it may concern,—Any proposition which embraces the restoration of peace, the integrity of the whole Union, and the abandonment of slavery, and which comes by and with an authority that can control the armies now at war against the United States, will be received and considered by the Executive Government of the United States, and will be met by liberal terms on substantial and collateral points, and the bearer or bearers thereof shall have safe conduct both ways.

(Signed)

ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
President of the United States.

Clifton House, July 21.

To Hon. H. Greeley.

Sir,—The paper handed to Mr. Holcomb yesterday, in your presence, by Major Hay, as to the application in our note of the 18th inst., is couched in the following terms:—"The application to which we refer was decided by your letter of the 17th inst., in which you inform Mr. Thomson and ourselves that you were authorised by the President of the United States to give us safe conduct, on the hypothesis that we are duly accredited from Richmond as bearers of propositions looking to the establishment of peace, and desired to visit Washington in the fulfilment of this mission. This assertion, to which we gave, and still do, entire credence, was accepted by us as the evidence of an expected but most gratifying change in the policy of the President—a change which we felt authorised to hope might terminate in the conclusion of a peace mutually just, honourable, and advantageous to the North and to the South, exacting no condition but that we should be accredited from Richmond as bearers of propositions looking to the establishment of peace, thus proffering a basis for conference as comprehensive as we could desire. It seemed to us that the President opened a door which had previously been closed against the Confederate States for full interchange of sentiments, free discussion of conflicting opinions, and untrammelled efforts to remove all causes of controversy by liberal negotiations. We, indeed, could not claim the benefit of a safe-conduct which had been extended to us in a character we had no right to assume, and had never affected to possess; but the uniform declaration of our Executive and Congress, and their thrice-repeated and as often repulsed attempts to open negotiations, furnished a sufficient pledge that this considerate manifestation on the part of the President of the United States would be met by them in a temper of equal magnanimity. We had therefore no hesitation in declaring that if this correspondence was communicated to the President of the Confederate States, he would probably embrace the opportunity presented for seeking a peaceful solution of this unhappy strife. We feel confident that you must share our profound regret that the spirit which dictated the first step towards peace had not continued to animate the councils of your President. Had the representatives of the two Governments met to consider this question, the most momentous ever submitted to human statesmanship, in a world have been, by the prayers and benedictions of every patriot and Christian on the habitable globe, who is there so bold as to pronounce that the frightful waste of individual happiness and public property which is

daily saddening the universal heart might not have been terminated, or, if the depletion and carnage of war must still be endured through weary years of blood and suffering, that there might not at least have been infused into its conduct something of a spirit to soften and partially redeem its brutalities? Instead of the safe-conduct which we solicited, and which your first letter gave us every reason to suppose would be extended for the purpose of initiating a negotiation in which neither Government would compromise its right or dignity, a document has been presented which is unlike any paper which ever before emanated from the constitutional executive of a free people. Addressed to whom it may concern, it precludes negotiations, and prescribes, in advance, the terms and conditions of peace, the return to the original policy of no bargaining, no protesting, no truce with the enemy, except to bury their dead, until every man should have laid down his arms, submitted to the Government, and sued for mercy. What may be the explanation of this sudden and entire change in the views of the President, of this rude withdrawal of a courteous overture for negotiations, at the moment it was likely to be accepted? Whether this emphatic recall of words of peace just uttered, and fresh blasts of war, be the better course, we leave for the speculation of those who have means or inclination to penetrate the mysteries of the Cabinet or fathom the caprice of his Imperial will. It is enough for us to say that we have no use whatever for the paper which has been placed into our hands. We could not transmit it to the President of the Confederate States without offering him indignity, dishonouring ourselves, and incurring the well-merited scorn of our countrymen. Whilst an ardent desire for peace prevails, the people of the Confederate States are rejoiced to believe that there are few, if any, amongst them who could purchase it at the expense of liberty, honour, and self-respect. If it can be secured only by their submission to terms of conquest, the generation is yet unborn which will witness its restoration. If there be any military authority in the North who is entitled to proffer the conditions of this manifest, there is none in the South authorised to entertain them. Those who control our armies are the servants of the people, not their masters; and they have no more inclination than they have right to subvert the social institutions of Sovereign States, to overthrow their priceless heritage of self-government. This correspondence will not, however, we trust, prove wholly barren of good result. If there be any citizen of the Confederate States who has clung to the hope that peace was possible with this administration of the Federal Government, it will strip from his eye the last film of such delusion. If there be any whose hearts have grown faint under the suffering and agony of this bloody struggle, it will inspire them with fresh exergy to endure and brave whatever may yet be requisite to preserve themselves and their children, all that gives dignity and value to life, or hope and consolation to death. If there be any patriots or Christians in your land who shrink appalled from the illimitable vista of private misery and public calamity which stretches before them, we pray that in their bosoms a resolution may be quickened to reclaim the abused authority and vindicate the outraged civilisation of their country. For the solicitude you have manifested to inaugurate a movement which contemplates results the most noble and humane, we return our sincere thanks, and are most respectfully and truly your obedient servants.

(Signed) C. CLAY, J. B. HOLCOMB, } Commissioners.

To Hon. H. Greeley.

The letters have excited much amusement in America, as it is thought the Confederates have placed Mr. Lincoln in a position that will impair his chances of re-election. Mr. Greeley, however, states in the *Tribune* his general inference that the pacification of the country is neither so difficult nor so distant as is generally supposed.

TERRIBLE RAILWAY COLLISION IN THE UNITED STATES.

ANOTHER dreadful railway catastrophe has occurred in America, which is described as follows in the *New York Tribune* of the 19th ult.:—

Lookout under the charge of 125 Union soldiers. They safely arrived at New York on the 14th, and left Jersey City at five a.m. on the morning of the 15th, en route for Elmira, New York, whither they had been ordered to proceed. All went well, and the convoy reached Port Jervis in the best of spirits. At Port Jervis the double track of the Erie Railroad ends, and for the next twenty-four or twenty-five miles the road is but a single track to Lackawaxen Junction, with occasional lengths of double track where the nature of the road permits.

"Throughout the whole of this distance, and for some miles further on, the railroad runs up the valley of the Delaware, and is full of sharp curves and awkward turns, along which it is often impossible for the engine-driver to see more than fifty or sixty yards in advance. It was along this piece of the road, about two miles from Shohola, and when turning a point of one of the abutting hills, that a train of eighteen cars, with its freight of 958 souls, running at the rate of twenty-five miles an hour, met a coal-train of fifty cars, with each a load of twelve tons, that came thundering down the incline from Lackawaxen. When the trains came in sight of each other they could not have been more than 100 yards apart, the drivers not having time even to reverse their engines and jump off before death was upon them; the driver of the passenger-train, named William Ingram, and his fireman, named Tuttle, being both taken off the engine dead, as was the fireman of the coal-engine, named Philo. Prentiss.

"The shock was tremendous and its results awful, though, fortunately, neither of the engines left the line. The tender of the passenger engine was turned up on end, the wood for fuel being thrown in front and burying the driver and fireman. The first car was utterly destroyed, being jammed into a space less than six feet, while, to complete its demolition, the tender that had been tipped on end fell back on its roof. It contained thirty-seven men, and from its wreck thirty-six were taken out dead, only one man escaping with his life by falling between the platforms to the earth. Three of the cars in all were totally destroyed, and seven or eight of them so much broken as to be entirely useless, and it was in these cars that the greatest loss of life occurred; for, when the collision took place, two Union soldiers were placed as sentinels at each door on the platform of each car, which were also occupied by some of the rebels. Of the men thus standing all were immediately killed save one or two.

"As soon as possible the survivors set to work under the guidance of the captain in charge of the body, to extricate the dying and wounded from their fearful position, and, in the mean time, word was sent to Shohola apprising the authorities there of the state of things, who immediately telegraphed for assistance to Port Jervis. The scene is described by those who escaped as most appalling: the road blocked up with debris, car piled upon car in the most indescribable confusion, the bodies of those thrown from them covering the road at every step, the flying dust and blinding smoke from the quenching fires, the noise of the escaping steam, and, above all, the fearful groans and heartrending cries of the injured and expiring. Some of the corpses were shockingly mutilated, heads completely crushed, bodies transfixed, impaled on timbers or iron rods, or smashed between the colliding beams; whilst one man was discovered, dead, sitting on the top of the upturned tender, in grotesque and ghastly mockery of the scene around him.

"When the cries of the last wounded had directed the searchers to his place of imprisonment, and the last corpse removed from its temporary tomb, it was found that the victims numbered sixteen Union men and forty-four rebels, dead; while the wounded numbered about 120, some of them wounded mortally—indeed four have since died, and a number of others cannot be expected to recover. After an inquest had been held, a large trench was dug, by the soldiers and the railway employes, 76 ft. long, 8 ft. wide, and 6 ft. deep, in which the bodies were at once interred in boxes hastily constructed—one being allotted to four rebels, and one to each Union soldier. The wounded were conveyed as soon as possible to Shohola, where they met with every attention and aid that surgical skill could suggest and the limited accommodation permit."

ACCIDENTS IN MINES.—In the year 1863 there were 907 deaths caused by accidents in and about the coal-mines of Great Britain, 226 less than in the year 1862. Of the deaths 163 were caused by explosions of fire-damp, 407 by falls in mines, 147 by accidents in shafts, 134 by miscellaneous underground accidents, and 56 by accidents at the surface. There were also in 1863 ninety-one deaths caused by accidents in and about the inspected ironstone-mines of Great Britain, fourteen less than in 1862; nine of these were from explosions of fire-damp, thirty-nine from falls in mines, twenty-seven from accidents in shafts, nine from miscellaneous accidents underground, and seven from accidents on the surface. In South Wales one life was lost to every 45,390 tons of coals raised, and that has been about the average of the last eight years. In Scotland the deaths are as low as six per 1,000,000 tons raised.

THE POLISH INSURRECTION.

FEWER and fewer are the reports which reach us of any fresh incident which shows us that the insurrection in Poland is maintained. By the latest intelligence of the movements of the Russian authorities, which is contained in the news from Leipzig, a village has been destroyed, and all the inhabitants sent to Siberia, because some Poles had beaten a Russian spy. And then the official paper of Warsaw publishes a proclamation which clearly shows that the little mercy afforded to Polish refugees, through the intervention of Monsignore Felinski, by the Grand Duke Constantine, is to be no longer extended, but that the confiscations of the days of the Emperor Nicholas are to be recommenced. This is the text:—"According to the conditions imposed by the Imperial ukase of 1850, Polish subjects (refugees in other countries) are liable to punishment for contumacy, and to the confiscation of their possessions. Now, the very considerable number of inhabitants registered as absent for no known reason renders it necessary to inquire strictly into the case, and discover whether such absentees should not be considered as refugees, and coming under the application of that ukase. For this reason, the chief of the police of Warsaw has given orders to his whole corps that strict inquiries should be made at the house of each absent individual as to his present residence, and the cause of his leaving home, taking for the basis of such inquiry the register of the population, and for means of information the examination of the relations and servants of the absent persons. Information will thus be acquired whether the absentee contemplates returning; where he is at this date; where is his property; what are the reasons of his absence; and if, from the facts discovered, he is liable to punishment according to the rigours of the law of 1850."

The latest accounts from Warsaw state that 300 persons sentenced to Siberia have been sent out. The greater number of them belonged to the upper classes. They were dressed like convicts, their heads shaved, and chained together two and two. Several of these prisoners died of hunger and fatigue. More frightful accusations are made, and women have torn the skin from their faces to save themselves from the attentions of their oppressors.

In Lithuania Mouravieff transported the populations of entire villages. Such has been the fate of the inhabitants of Prujany, whose crime was having bastinadoed a person whose conduct appears to have richly merited that punishment. The goods of the victims were sold, the Russian officers, as usual, having laid hands upon whatever was most valuable. The farms of the inhabitants of Prujany will be distributed to Russian cultivators brought from the neighbourhood of Moscow.

Mouravieff has, by a recent decree, declared every master who may be guilty of speaking any other language than Russian to his servants liable to a fine of 300 roubles.

The Russians hanged lately, in the district of Gostyn, a patriot named Enoch Schetolmann, who had covered himself with glory in the struggle against the enemy. The cord broke twice, and twice the victim fell to the ground. Canon Zinowski was fined fifty roubles for not having taken off previously to the execution the cross suspended round the victim's neck. Crosses erected in the villages expose the inhabitants to heavy fines, and are finally torn down by the Russians.

The Government, however, has organised a new system, by which the inhabitants of Lithuania are deported whether they are guilty or innocent of any political offences. The country being, for the time at least, vanquished and the insurrection suppressed, no opportunity is lost for its depopulation; and Polish families are compelled to remove from their hereditary estates and to journey to the interior of Russia, where they are provided with possessions of equal value. First to depart have been those who are merely suspected of political influence; and our Engraving represents a company of these landowners preparing, with their shepherds, cattle, and household goods to quit their country for the land of their compulsory exile.

THE COUNTRY ROUND RICHMOND AND PETERSBURG.

RICHMOND, the capital of the Confederate States and the principal city in Virginia, stands on a considerable hill, or elevation, above tide-water level. The country to the south and east is rather low, and even, with only slight elevations; but on the north and west the land is very rolling and uneven, and generally bare of large timber. The south and east, on the contrary, have many tracts covered with large trees on the low or flat land near the watercourses. In many places the flats are marshy and insalubrious, especially on the banks of the rivers. The tidal ebb and flow extends up to Richmond and Petersburg, but no further. The rivers have high and precipitous banks, while the streams are shallow and rapid. Beyond Richmond, and running along the bank of the James River, there is a large canal extending as far as Lynchburg, the river itself not being navigable so far up at any season of the year or for any class of vessels. The bank of the river on the north is much more elevated than on the south.

In the neighbourhood of Petersburg the country is rather low and level, with only slight undulations, and is much better wooded than near Richmond. The Appomattox River is shallow and rapid above Petersburg, which stands on its margin; but has tidal water and good navigation up to the city during the whole year.

Such is a brief description of the country in which the armies of Generals Grant and Lee confront each other; but the evils of the pestilential character of the locality, the swamps on the margin of the James River being as deadly as those of Walcheren or Terracina, are likely to tell much more on the Northern than on the Southern host, as the men composing the latter are better acclimatised, and therefore more able to withstand the influence of the night fogs which arise round City Point, Bermuda Hundred, and other spots on which Grant's forces are posted, than are their Northern opponents. A late letter from Richmond remarks that though "General Lee has exacted a heavy toll from General Grant between the 3rd of May and the 3rd of June, the James River will assist him in August and September, as much as that memorable night of frost, in 1812, in which 20,000 French horses perished, aided the Russians."

Speaking of the prospects of General Grant's campaign, the writer of the letter referred to above, says:—

Two railroads feed Richmond from the south—one the line from Wilmington to Weldon, Petersburg, and Richmond; the other, the railroad which comes up from Greensborough through the centre of North Carolina, enters Virginia at Danville, and, running through the heart of the State, reaches Richmond from the south-west. It may be at once conceded that there is little likelihood that the first—the Petersburg and Weldon Railroad—can be kept open. Grant's army lies so closely in its proximity, and his cavalry can strike it in so many points along the sixty miles which intervene between Weldon and Petersburg, as to negative its utility. It would be a waste of power for General Lee to try and keep it in operation. Upon the other railroad, or rather upon the ninety miles of it between Richmond and the Staunton River, General Lee's defensive ingenuity will be exhausted. This railroad is, in its nearest point, distant about twenty-five miles from Grant's extreme left, and trends away from him into the interior of Virginia, so that an interval of ninety miles divides him from the bridge over the Staunton River. Can this railroad be kept substantially in operation? It has already been destroyed at intervals for thirty-five miles northwards from the Staunton River by a mingled body of Federal cavalry and infantry; but, inasmuch as no important bridge has been destroyed, the damage can be repaired in fourteen days. I will at once express my conviction that Grant is not strong enough either in cavalry or infantry to do more than dash at this railroad and inflict from time to time light damage upon it. Richmond can never be starved out until these two railroads from the South, as well as the James River Canal and the railroads from the North, can be utterly annihilated, and can be kept annihilated. As an illustration how quickly damage, if lightly inflicted, is repaired I may mention that the Virginia Central Railroad, which was destroyed for many miles by Sheridan upon the 11th of June, has for some days past been open and running to Charlottesville, whence it continues indirectly to Lynchburg. This line alone would, in addition to the James River Canal, abundantly victual Richmond, although every other line were cut. In short, to talk of Richmond being besieged because Grant's army environs Petersburg, twenty-two miles away, is about as reasonable as to pretend that London was on short rations when Napoleon's army menaced England from Boulogne, in 1801.

A DESTRUCTIVE FIRE occurred at Georgetown, Demerara, on the 8th ult., by which property to the value of 1,500,000 dollars, was consumed.

Ashantee, Brazil, China, and the civil war in America have also furnished subjects for discussion. As to the dark affair of Kagosima, it was pleaded, first, that Lord Russell knew very little about the place (which no one ever doubted); secondly, that the population of that city was much smaller than had been represented; thirdly, that all the population left the city before the bombardment took place; fourthly, that the city was made of pasteboard, and since the bombardment had been rebuilt; and, fifthly, that it would not do to issue orders to admirals on distant stations and then censure them for carrying them into execution. It was this last argument, we fancy, that impressed the House of Commons, and Earl Russell was acquitted that Admiral Kuper might not seem to be blamed.

With reference to the Danish and Polish questions, we need not add anything to what we have already said over and over again, or to what Polonius said, some time before us, on the subject of disputes in general. Earl Russell will neither beware of entering upon a quarrel, nor, having entered upon it, does he bear it so as to make offenders beware of him. His kindness is worse than his enmity, and, as a rule, those nations alone have to complain of him whose interests he has undertaken to defend. Such, at least, has been the case in Europe, where there are several great military despots to count with. In Asia, Africa, and Australia it is very different; and there, as there is nothing to fear, the honour of England seems to require that we should be perpetually at war. At the last moment there is always something to be said on behalf of Austria, Russia, and Prussia, and against the hot-headedness of the Italians, the restlessness of the Poles, and the imprudence of the Danes. But the Brazilians are incorrigible, and the only thing to do with them when they insult a British officer is to seize their fleet; while the Japanese, the Chinese, and even the unfortunate Maoris are equally perverse, and must, on the smallest pretext, be treated with still greater severity. It has lately been laid down as a principle that in Europe it is absurd for England to give aid to nations too weak to defend themselves, while, if they are sufficiently strong without us, they, of course, need no assistance. If no false chivalry urges us to defend the weak in Europe, it is equally true that no feeling of the kind prevents us from attacking them in other parts of the globe.

The House of Commons seems to have felt strongly enough that this inconsistency existed in the foreign policy of the Government; but hitherto the Ministers have managed to escape from all their difficulties. They have been loudly censured even by those who have voted for them, but they have continued to keep in office, which is, after all, the great thing.

GODARD'S MONTGOLFIER BALLOON AT CREMORNE.

Balloons are quite becoming institutions, and a strife has arisen among aeronauts as to who shall construct machines of the largest dimensions, and rise highest and go furthest with their aerial conveyances. First we have our native aeronaut, Mr. Coxwell, making almost innumerable successful ascents, accompanied by his never-failing friend Mr. Glaisher, conducting diversified scientific observations as to the state of the atmosphere and other phenomena; then we were both astonished and grieved by the journey of M. Nadar in his Giant from Paris to Germany, and the mishaps and injuries sustained by the aeronaut and his fellow-voyagers; and now—not to mention the efforts of minor experimentalists—we have M. Eugene Godard's performances with his huge Montgolfier balloon at Cremorne Gardens, from which favourite place of resort he has made several ascents.

This balloon is an enormous structure, made of silk inside and very plain canvas outside, of the ordinary pear-shape, adorned with representations of the French eagle, and generally of a whitey-brown colour, except a blue border which goes round it near the top. Last year M. Nadar's "Giant" balloon was a subject of international interest, but "The Eagle" far surpasses it in size, and the following statistics go beyond the dimensions of any other balloon yet made: It is 117 ft. 7 in. in height, 95 ft. 9 in. in circumference, 300 ft. 6 in. superficial, 30,000 ft. in area, 2005 lb. in weight, 498,556 in cubic capacity, contains 4793 square yards of silk in 1910 pieces of ninety-six stripes, 14,203 ft. of stitching, ninety-six overlaps of joints 154 ft. long, making 13,848 ft. more of sewing, and 17,241 ft. of balloons, which form the network; the balloons are stitched on both sides, and contain 34,349 more feet of stitching. Twenty-four compartments in the parachute require 6824 ft. of stitching. The whole contains 69,324 ft. of stitching, requiring 2706 days of work. The valve is 4 ft. 8 in. in diameter, and the appendix is 24 ft. 5 in.; the opening of the latter is held by a wooden hoop, rigged with thirty-two cords to sustain the car, which weighs 585 lb., is dish-shaped, and 13 ft. 2 in. in diameter, with a border of 8 in.; the car is constructed of several pieces, which can be disconnected and put together again for convenience of transport. The hoop and the car are also attached by sixty-four metal cords. In the centre of the car is an 18 ft. stove, including the chimney, 980 pounds in weight, 6 ft. 6 in. in diameter, composed of three cylinders, apart from each other, invented by M. Godard with a view to counteract the effects of the radiated heat upon the occupants of the car; inside the flue is a metal colander to intercept sparks. The combustible employed for filling the balloon with heated air is rye straw, cleaned from the ears and compressed into blocks. The total weight of the balloon (including the grappling-iron cord, 400 lb.; two supplemental pumps, 150 lb.; and combustibles, 500 lb.) is 4620 lb. Such is M. Godard's gigantic aerial machine. It appears to be put together in a most substantial manner, and when fully inflated is of symmetrical proportions. The presumed advantage of returning to the Montgolfier or heated-air system is, that the inflation can be completed in less than an hour, and M. Godard says that under favourable circumstances he can fill and start in less than half an hour. With a gas-filled balloon the process of inflation is generally long and tiresome—sometimes beginning at ten o'clock in the morning and not being finished at six o'clock in the evening, the usual hour for ascending.

On the occasion of M. Godard's first ascent from Cremorne, about three weeks ago, the process of inflation commenced about six o'clock in the evening, the balloon depending from a horizontal rope attached to two masts one hundred feet high. For nearly an hour the great mass of silk, canvas, and cordage seemed to set at defiance all the exertions of a powerful furnace and an unending supply of monster bundles of the choicest straw for producing rarefied air. People were beginning to lay wagers that the great French Eagle was overweighted in her construction, and would fail to use her wings. The heavy-looking exterior of the balloon and the iron-work inside warranted doubts as to the practicability of the ascent. It was not until the immense mass rose from the ground and swayed to and fro before the spectators, that public confidence began to

revive. At a quarter to eight the whole fabric stood up amongst the trees and poles of the crowded ground, and the ropes that held it to the earth were cut away one by one. M. Godard ran rapidly round the solid wicker car, shouting orders through a speaking-trumpet. Several gentlemen took their places in the car, while many were left behind, who had purchased seats, but who had doubts at the eleventh hour. The last rope was cut away, and the huge balloon rolled rather than rose towards the east side of the gardens. Here it met a firm, lofty pole, to which some of its detaining ropes had been attached, and this pole was bent upon the creaking roof of a theatrical Swiss cottage, which broke in like a piece of ornamental pastry. For a few seconds the balloon seemed to return to the gardens, and to descend towards the grass, while the stokers were seen desperately throwing the small trusses of compressed straw into the mouth of the fiery furnace. M. Godard vociferated through his trumpet. The excitement caused several ladies to faint, and a portion of the crowd to rush panic-stricken towards the hotel. In less than a minute, however, "The Eagle" had regained buoyancy, and rose with extraordinary steadiness above the lofty trees of the gardens. Her appearance was peculiar, as she had no variegated stripes of colour, like the ordinary oil-skin balloons; the yellow furnace gleamed just above the travellers and under her neck, and numbers of small straw trusses hung dangling underneath her car. The balloon safely descended at Greenwich.

M. Godard made his second and deferred ascent on the night of Thursday, the 28th ult., before at least ten thousand persons. The wind had been somewhat high during the afternoon, and had not fallen much during the evening, but the furnace was lighted shortly before seven o'clock, and in less than an hour the vast and graceful structure stood up in the grounds, ready to mount with its passengers. Before the ascent could be made the balloon had to be guided to a spot comparatively free from trees and poles, and this caused much excitement amongst the crowd, who appeared to be attracted by and yet afraid of the machine. Nothing can well be imagined more impressive than this huge globe swaying to and fro amongst the crowd, and dragging with it a roaring furnace which shoots up flames through a gauze screen at the top of a large funnel into its dark and yawning interior. The heat sent out from the furnace holes and the interior of the balloon is very great—so great that the few who stood near the car just before the balloon started felt their faces scorched. The side of the balloon caught fire just before the ropes were cut away, but the slight flames were speedily put out with cans of water by M. Godard's workmen. Only one passenger, besides the aeronaut and his assistants, ascended. The ascent was cleverly managed, and the balloon appeared to have more buoyancy than it had when it ascended before. It took an easterly direction. M. Godard ascended to a great height, and lost sight of the earth for a considerable time. He descended in safety at Woodford, after a very pleasant journey of forty minutes.

On Wednesday evening M. Godard made another ascent in his huge Montgolfier or heated-air balloon from Cremorne Gardens, in the presence of some thousands of people. From the same place, and at the same time, Mr. Adams ascended in a balloon called "The Prince of Wales," which was inflated by gas in the ordinary way; but the two, in point of size and appearance, were out of all comparison, and the interest of the spectators was almost exclusively concentrated on that of M. Godard, in reference to which the other looked like a mere satellite. The vast difference in size between the two might have induced the belief that the English balloon had been selected to set off by contrast the magnificent proportions of the other, which would not have been so striking if the larger balloon of Mr. Coxwell had been put in comparison with it. About three quarters of an hour in the whole were consumed on Wednesday evening in the process of inflation, which was watched with eager interest by the crowd. The stokers kept constantly feeding the furnace, in the interval, with the compressed straw, until the huge mass was completely distended. There was a brisk wind, and at one time the balloon swayed much to and fro in the process of inflation, and looked as if it would break away from its moorings. At length, all being ready, M. Godard, accompanied by several gentlemen, entered the car, and the balloon rose amid the enthusiastic cheers of the crowd. A moment or two before that Mr. Adams, in his gas balloon, had shot into the air with the rapidity almost of a rocket, which had a rather ludicrous effect in comparison with the stately ascent of the other. He soared to a great height compared with M. Godard and his companions, who appeared to be just at a convenient altitude for taking a bird's-eye view of London. Both balloons took an easterly course, that of M. Godard diverging rather more towards the north than the other, and both were watched with much interest by the crowd at the starting-point until they passed out of sight. The Godard balloon descended on the marshes of the River Lea, near Walthamstow. It ascended again and proceeded from Mr. Boston's to Mr. Tasker's farm, where the grappling-irons were thrown out and caught a tree. The balloon then swayed about with great violence against the tree, the branches of which it broke. Serious damage was done to the balloon and car. Some of the party in the car jumped out as it was descending, and one had his leg sprained, while another was cut about the face and hands, not, it is believed, seriously.

COTTON-PLANTING IS BEING VIGOROUSLY PROSECUTED IN TAHITI several thousand acres having been placed under this crop, and steam-engines, gins, and presses having been got ready for cleaning and preparing the produce for market.

THE GLUCKSBURG FAMILY AND THE SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN QUESTION.—The present King of Denmark has three brothers older than himself—Duke Charles of Glücksburg, Prince Frederick, a retired Captain of cavalry, and Prince William, a General in the Austrian service. His two younger brothers, Jules and John, were formerly Majors in the Prussian army. During the last war of Schleswig-Holstein, King Christian was the only one of the brothers that sided with Denmark, and it was mainly to that circumstance that he owed being called to the Throne, in virtue of the Treaty of London. Prince William took part, as Colonel of an Austrian regiment, in the occupation of Holstein in 1851. Prince Charles, married to a daughter of Frederick VI. of Denmark, was the first to protest, in concert with the father of the present Duke of Augustenburg and the Prince of Augustenburg-Noer, the brother of the latter, against Christian VIII.'s letter-patent in 1846. When the Prince of Augustenburg-Noer gave his resignation as general and governor of the duchies, Duke Charles at the same time tendered his grade of general in the Danish army. Whilst, however, the former assumed the command of the troops of Schleswig-Holstein at Bau and Flensburg in 1848, and undertook the provisional government for a short time, Duke Charles remained, as he has since done, in private life. He has, however, protested against the claim of the Grand Duke of Oldenburg, and supports the right of succession of the Prince of Augustenburg. Duke Charles by so doing took the part of a Prince of a more distant line in opposition to his own brother. During the Danish rule in Schleswig-Holstein, between 1853 and 1863, he resided sometimes at the palace of Kiel and sometimes at Louisenlund, near Schleswig.

KIDNAPPING JEWISH CHILDREN AT ROME.—A little boy, son of a Jewish mechanic, is reported to have been carried off by a priest, and to be now kept in monkish custody for the good of his soul in despite of the appeals of his parents. Unless there be gross exaggeration in the statements of the Turin journal, this is even a more unjustifiable and disgraceful transaction than the kidnapping of the Mortara boy. It is affirmed that not only the parents, but the whole Jewish community of Rome, appealed for the restoration of the child (decoyed by a shameful stratagem); but that the answer was an emphatic declaration that the claims of the boy's salvation superseded the rights of father and mother. The case, if it prove to be true, is certain to produce a profound sensation throughout Europe, and likely to damage seriously the Papal Government.

PARTY FEELING IN INDIANA.—A most painful tragedy occurred near Mauckport, Harrison County, Indiana, one Sunday lately. A young lady named Miller went to the church wearing some sort of a Confederate emblem. This created a considerable feeling among some of the Republican ladies of the congregation. After the services were over, Mrs. Timberlake, niece of Colonel John Timberlake, volunteered to go and take away the emblem. She rushed towards Miss Miller, and a general fight ensued among the women, when Colonel John Timberlake came into the crowd, apparently much excited. A secessionist, named Henry Lohmire, who accompanied Miss Miller to the church, warned Timberlake not to interfere. Timberlake replied to Lohmire, "You are nothing but a d-d rebel, anyhow;" whereupon Lohmire drew a pistol and shot twice, both shots taking effect. The first ball passed through Timberlake's hand and into his shoulder, the second entered his side, and passed through his heart, causing instant death. Lohmire was arrested and put in the goal at Corydon.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

There is little news of interest from Paris. The papers are principally occupied in discussing the terms of peace granted by Austria and Prussia to Denmark, which they stigmatise as excessively severe.

The Emperor has addressed a letter to Marshal Vaillant, dated Vichy, July 31, concerning the re-building of the Opera-house and the Hôtel Dieu hospital. His Majesty says the Opera-house is already in an advanced state, but the first stone of the Hôtel Dieu has not yet been laid. Marshal Vaillant is therefore instructed to urge the Prefect of the Seine to commence shortly the works of the Hôtel Dieu, as his Majesty, on moral grounds, considers that it is in the highest degree important that a building devoted to pleasure should not be constructed before an asylum for the suffering.

TUNIS.

The Tunisian insurrection has been brought to a close by a timely and reasonable concession on the part of the Government. A reduction of taxation has been agreed upon, and the consequence is that the principal tribes who were in revolt have sent in their submission, whilst the chief of the insurgents is permitted to leave the regency and go into voluntary exile. The Bey, however, is said to be enrolling fresh troops, principally Europeans, with a view, it is supposed, to be in a better position to deal with discontent among his subjects in future.

DENMARK AND GERMANY.

The preliminary treaty of peace between Denmark and the great German Powers has been signed. The following are the terms granted to Denmark:—"Lauenburg, Schleswig, and Holstein to be ceded to the two great German Powers. The island of Arro to remain with Denmark; Alsen, however, and the islands in the North Sea, to go with Schleswig. On account of the Danish enclaves in Schleswig, a rectification of the Jutland frontier will take place." An armistice is to remain in force until the final conclusion of peace. During the armistice Jutland is to be occupied and governed by the allies.

The occupation of Rendsburg by the Prussians has caused considerable dissatisfaction among the smaller German Powers. The Bavarian Government has instructed its representative at Frankfurt to propose that the Diet should demand the immediate withdrawal of the Prussian troops from Rendsburg, and the restoration of the previous state of things in that town. The Saxon Chamber of Deputies, at its sitting on Monday, passed the following resolution:—"That the occupation of Rendsburg by Prussian troops, which has taken place by the abuse of an overwhelming force, is a violation of the rights of the German Confederation and an outrage upon the honour of the German Federal troops. The Chamber hereby enters a protest against this act of violence on the part of a German Federal Power."

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

WAR NEWS.

Our intelligence from New York extends to the afternoon of the 23rd ult.

Latest advices from General Grant's army disclose no events of importance. The Confederates were endeavouring to blockade the James River by planting heavy batteries below City Point, with a view to cut off Grant's communication by water. On the 19th ult. a number of Georgia and Alabama troops are said to have deserted to the Federal lines. On the night of the 20th the Confederate batteries opened a heavy fire, which was returned with vigour. On the morning of the 20th the Federal batteries opened on the city and reduced the dépôt of the Weldon Railroad to ruins. General Grant's lines are said to have been somewhat contracted; but the siege of Petersburg was to be vigorously prosecuted.

The Confederates are reported to have retired entirely from Maryland, though rumours were current of a fresh invasion by way of Muddy Branch and Rockville, while another force, estimated at 5000 men, was said to have recrossed the Potomac fifteen miles above Harper's Ferry. It was reported that General Averill, on the 19th, attacked 5000 Confederates under Early, near Winchester, killed and wounded 300, and captured 200 prisoners and four cannon. The Confederate General Lilley was made prisoner. The forces of Major-General Wright, after some skirmishing with the rear-guard of one of the retreating Confederate columns, finally overtook the main body at Purcellville, five miles from Snicker's Gap. An unsuccessful attempt was made to dislodge them by Crook's cavalry, after which General Wright threw forward several regiments to develop their strength. A heavy artillery fire, however, forced the Federals to retire. On the following morning General Wright advanced for a general attack, but found that Early had retreated during the night towards Strasburg. The pursuit was then discontinued.

From Georgia the news is more important than from Virginia. General Sherman had crossed the Chattahoochee on the 18th ult., and fought a battle in front of Atlanta on the 21st, in which he is stated to have defeated the Confederates under General Hood, who had superseded Johnston. The Confederates were driven into their fortifications on with a loss of 6000 killed and 4000 prisoners, the Federal loss being 1500. A report had been in circulation that Atlanta had subsequently been abandoned by the Southerners and occupied by the Federals; but, as no official confirmation of this report had appeared, and as General Sherman was in full telegraphic communication with Washington, no reliance was placed on the statement. No details of the operations are given, but it was reported that the Federal crossing of the Chattahoochee was effected with such celerity as to take the Confederates by surprise, and that Macpherson's corps had been rapidly thrown forward on the left to Decatur, thereby severing railroad communication between Atlanta and Richmond. Sherman had dispatched a cavalry expedition, under General Rousseau, against the Southern communications of Atlanta. Forrest, with 10,000 men, was marching upon Sherman's communications. He reached Huntsville on the 16th inst. General A. J. Smith, sent from Memphis in pursuit of Forrest, had had several encounters with the Confederates in Mississippi, in which he claimed the advantage. He had, however, afterwards returned to Memphis, after having driven a Confederate force under General S. D. Lee south of Trepo, Mississippi.

Confederate accounts claim that a large Federal force under General Elliott was attacked near Port Hudson, on the 5th, and routed with great slaughter, the roads for miles being strewn with dead negroes, horses, and arms.

A Louisville despatch of the 17th states that a Confederate force, from 5000 to 15,000 strong, commanded by General Ducker, had invaded Kentucky, and was marching northwards.

Great excitement prevailed in Missouri, and the whole State was under martial law. In the north-western countries quite a panic existed, and guerrillas were increasing in numbers to an alarming extent. One force, 500 strong, was in Clay County; another force of 400 was in Carroll County; and Thornton, with 2000 guerrillas, was marching north against Plattsburg. Another force of 1200, under Colonel Tod, was marching to invade Kansas. The State militia were reported to have joined the guerrillas in large numbers. One thousand men, under Pickler, were in South-western Missouri, and it is also reported that General Sterling Price had entered the State with 5000 men. The Union farmers were flocking to St. Joseph and other fortified posts for protection, leaving the grain unharvested.

Charleston advices to the 16th report a vigorous bombardment of Fort Sumter in progress, and that thirty or forty shells were daily thrown into the city.

GENERAL NEWS.

President Lincoln had issued a proclamation calling for half a million additional soldiers, and ordering a draught for deficiencies

on all quotas not completed by the 5th of September. The term of service for the draughted men was to be one year.

St. Louis despatches report the discovery of a wide-spread conspiracy for the formation of a North-Western Confederacy, embracing all the States in the Mississippi Valley. Several prominent citizens of St. Louis implicated had been arrested.

The cruisers sent in search of the Florida had returned, without having been able to discover that vessel. Several other ships were to be added to the pursuing squadron.

Severe drought had prevailed in the New England, middle, and most of the western States, and the crops were in consequence very seriously injured.

Colonel J. F. Jaques, of the 73rd Illinois Regiment, had recently visited Richmond, at his own request. He was clothed with no official powers, but went believing that he could personally increase the prospect of a reconciliation between the two sections. Permission to make the journey was granted by President Lincoln. Colonel Jaques remained at the Confederate capital three days, and was handsomely entertained at the Spotswood House by the Confederate authorities. He had several interviews with President Davis, Secretary Benjamin, and Commissioner Ould. It is said that Colonel Jaques met with some success in impressing his views upon Mr. Davis, who, on taking leave of him, said that, leaving out of view the present struggle, he had the highest respect for his character and humane purposes. Colonel Jaques visited the Libby and Belle Isle prisons, and reports that he was agreeably surprised at the comparatively comfortable condition of the Federal prisoners. Colonel Jaques was formerly a Methodist clergyman, and is a man of much influence and of high moral position.

COMMENCEMENT OF A PEACE MOVEMENT.

Several Northern journals were beginning to talk freely of the necessity of bringing the war to an immediate conclusion. A leading Republican journal of Boston had the following remarks:—

We presume the people of the South are satisfied that they cannot subjugate the North, and the people of the North are satisfied that they cannot subjugate the South. This being true, what becomes our duty—to stay the slaughter of men, to restore peace to the country? This is a political question, and must be decided at the polls by the voters in both sections of the country. If the press would unite upon any basis that would recommend itself to the people, there would be no difficulty in coming to an understanding upon the subject. Can we agree with the South upon any terms? Can we offer a basis of settlement which they will adopt, and which at the same time will be satisfactory to the North? For our part we see no way opened for a return of the rebel States to the Union except by and through the agency of the Constitution. They must either resume their State sovereignty and acknowledge the Federal Constitution, or they must stay where they are. If the people at the South are a unit against the return to the Federal compact, it becomes a question for us to decide how much longer we will fight to compel them to an unwilling association with us. And if we were to succeed in destroying their armies, should we then have peace upon a permanent basis? These are grave questions, and demand the serious consideration of the thinking, reflecting minds. Our object in this article is to call the attention of the press to the great duty which devolves upon them in this trying hour; ask them to discuss this matter calmly and dispassionately, with a view to concert of action; and to unite the people of the North upon some project to stop the further shedding of blood.

The *New York Herald* proposes the following question:—

If we understand the Southern leaders, they will not return to the Union upon any terms. They inaugurated the war to establish a Southern Confederacy, and will be content with nothing short of that. If this be true, can we prevent it, and compel them to a submission to the old Union? If we cannot, and the people are satisfied upon this point, it is useless to fight any longer, but hold on to what we have got, and wait for time to determine the future. . . . We warn those in power that a crisis is rapidly approaching that will hurl them from their seats, unless they bring this war to a close, or convince the people that they have the power to do so before long.

ABORTIVE NEGOTIATIONS FOR PEACE.

A curious correspondence between several distinguished Confederate agents stopping at Clifton House, Niagara Falls, on the one side, and Horace Greeley and President Lincoln on the other, has been published in *New York*. The Confederates asked Mr. Greeley to procure them a safe conveyance to Washington to consult with the President personally on terms of pacification. Mr. Lincoln replied, through Mr. Greeley, that he would grant them a safe passage if duly accredited by their Government. The Confederate agents said they had no special, but only a general mission; upon which Mr. Lincoln sent his private secretary to Mr. Greeley, with a message addressed to whom it might concern, to the effect that he could only negotiate upon the terms of a thorough restoration of the Union and the abolition of slavery. The correspondence abruptly terminated at this point, the Confederate agents refusing to enter upon a negotiation of which the basis was pre-arranged by the opposite party. The following are the most important portions of this singular correspondence:—

Clifton House, July 12.
Dear Sir,—I am authorised to say that the Hon. Clement Clay, of Ala.; Professor J. B. Holcomb, of Virginia; and G. N. Saunders, of Dixie, are ready and willing to go at once to Washington upon complete and unqualified protection being given by the President or the Secretary of War. Let the permission include the three names and one other.—Yours, &c.,
To Hon. H. Greeley. (Signed) GEO. N. SAUNDERS.

Niagara Falls, July 17.
Gentlemen,—I am informed that you are duly accredited from Richmond as the bearers of propositions looking to the establishment of peace; that you desire to visit Washington in fulfilment of your mission, and that you further desire that G. N. Saunders shall accompany you. If my information be thus far substantially correct, I am authorised by the President of the United States to tender you his safe conduct on the journey proposed, and to accompany you at the earliest time that will be agreeable to you.—I have the honour to be, &c.,
To Messrs. C. C. Clay, Jacob Thomson, and J. B. Holcomb. (Signed) H. GREELEY.

Executive Mansion, Washington, 18th.
To whom it may concern,—Any proposition which embraces the restoration of peace, the integrity of the whole Union, and the abandonment of slavery, and which comes by and with an authority that can control the armies now at war against the United States, will be received and considered by the Executive Government of the United States, and will be met by liberal terms on substantial and collateral points, and the bearer or bearers thereof shall have safe conduct both ways.
(Signed) ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
President of the United States.

Clifton House, July 21.
To Hon. H. Greeley.

Sir,—The paper handed to Mr. Holcomb yesterday, in your presence, by Major Hay, as to the application in our note of the 18th inst., is conched in the following terms:—"The application to which we refer was decided by your letter of the 17th inst., in which you inform Mr. Thomson and ourselves that you were authorised by the President of the United States to give us safe conduct, on the hypothesis that we are duly accredited from Richmond as bearers of propositions looking to the establishment of peace, and desired to visit Washington in the fulfilment of this mission. This assertion, to which we gave, and still do, entire credence, was accepted by us as the evidence of an expected but most gratifying change in the policy of the President—a change which we felt authorised to hope might terminate in the conclusion of a peace mutually just, honourable, and advantageous to the North and to the South, exacting no condition but that we should be accredited from Richmond as bearers of propositions looking to the establishment of peace, thus proffering a basis for conference as comprehensive as we could desire. It seemed to us that the President opened a door which had previously been closed against the Confederate States for full interchange of sentiments, free discussion of conflicting opinions, and untrammelled efforts to remove all causes of controversy by liberal negotiations. We, indeed, could not claim the benefit of a safe-conduct which had been extended to us in a character we had no right to assume, and had never affected to possess; but the uniform declaration of our Executive and Congress, and their thrice-repeated and as often repulsed attempts to open negotiations, furnished a sufficient pledge that this considerate manifestation on the part of the President of the United States would be met by them in a temper of equal magnanimity. We had therefore no hesitation in declaring that if this correspondence was communicated to the President of the Confederate States, he would probably embrace the opportunity presented for seeking a peaceful solution of this unhappy strife. We feel confident that you must share our profound regret that the spirit which dictated the first step towards peace had not continued to animate the councils of your President. Had the representatives of the two Governments met to consider this question, the most momentous ever submitted to human statesmanship, in a would have been, by the prayers and benedictions of every patriot and Christian on the habitable globe, who is there so bold as to pronounce that the frightful waste of individual happiness and public prosperity which is

daily saddening the universal heart might not have been terminated, or, if the depletion and carnage of war must still be endured through weary years of blood and suffering, that there might not at least have been infused into its conduct something of a spirit to soften and partially redeem its brutalities? Instead of the safe-conduct which we solicited, and which your first letter gave us every reason to suppose would be extended for the purpose of initiating a negotiation in which neither Government would compromise its right or dignity, a document has been presented which is unlike any paper which ever emanated from the constitutional executive of a free people. Addressed to whom it may concern, it precludes negotiations, and prescribes, in advance, the terms and conditions of peace, the return to the original policy of no bargaining, no protesting, no truce with the enemy, except to bury their dead, until every man should have laid down his arms, submitted to the Government, and sued for mercy. What may be the explanation of this sudden and entire change in the views of the President, of this rude withdrawal of a courteous overture for negotiations, at the moment it was likely to be accepted? Whether this emphatic recall of words of peace just uttered, and fresh blasts of war, be the better course, we leave for the speculation of those who have means or inclination to penetrate the mysteries of the Cabinet or fathom the caprice of his Imperial will. It is enough for us to say that we have no use whatever for the paper which has been placed into our hands. We could not transmit it to the President of the Confederate States without offering him indignity, dishonouring ourselves, and incurring the well-merited scorn of our countrymen. Whilst an ardent desire for peace prevails, the people of the Confederate States are rejoiced to believe that there are few, if any, amongst them who could purchase it at the expense of liberty, honour, and self-respect. If it can be secured only by their submission to terms of conquest, the generation is yet unborn which will witness its restoration. If there be any military authority in the North who is entitled to proffer the conditions of this manifest, there is none in the South authorised to entertain them. Those who control our armies are the servants of the people, not their masters; and they have no more inclination than they have right to subvert the social institutions of Sovereign States, to overthrow their priceless heritage of self-government. This correspondence will not, however, we trust, prove wholly barren of good result. If there be any citizen of the Confederate States who has clung to the hope that peace was possible with this administration of the Federal Government, it will strip from his eye the last film of such delusion. If there be any whose hearts have grown faint under the suffering and agony of this bloody struggle, it will inspire them with fresh energy to endure and brave whatever may yet be requisite to preserve themselves and their children, all that gives dignity and value to life, or hope and consolation to death. If there be any patriots or Christians in your land who shrink appalled from the illimitable vista of private misery and public calamity which stretches before them, we pray that in their bosoms a resolution may be quickened to reclaim the abused authority and vindicate the outraged civilisation of their country. For the solicitude you have manifested to inaugurate a movement which contemplates results the most noble and humane, we return our sincere thanks, and are most respectfully and truly your obedient servants,

(Signed) C. CLAY, J. B. HOLCOMB, Commissioners.

The letters have excited much amusement in America, as it is thought the Confederates have placed Mr. Lincoln in a position that will impair his chances of re-election. Mr. Greeley, however, states in the *Tribune* his general inference that the pacification of the country is neither so difficult nor so distant as is generally supposed.

TERRIBLE RAILWAY COLLISION IN THE UNITED STATES.

ANOTHER dreadful railway catastrophe has occurred in America, which is described as follows in the *New York Tribune* of the 19th ult.:—

"On the 13th of July a batch of 833 rebel prisoners left Point Lookout under the charge of 125 Union soldiers. They safely arrived at New York on the 14th, and left Jersey City at five a.m. on the morning of the 15th, en route for Elmira, New York, whither they had been ordered to proceed. All went well, and the convoy reached Port Jervis in the best of spirits. At Port Jervis the double track of the Erie Railroad ends, and for the next twenty-four or twenty-five miles the road is but a single track to Lackawaxen Junction, with occasional lengths of double track where the nature of the road permits.

"Throughout the whole of this distance, and for some miles further on, the railroad runs up the valley of the Delaware, and is full of sharp curves and awkward turns, along which it is often impossible for the engine-driver to see more than fifty or sixty yards in advance. It was along this piece of the road, about two miles from Shohola, and when turning a point of one of the abutting hills, that a train of eighteen cars, with its freight of 958 souls, running at the rate of twenty-five miles an hour, met a coal-train of fifty cars, with each a load of twelve tons, that came thundering down the incline from Lackawaxen. When the trains came in sight of each other they could not have been more than 100 yards apart, the drivers not having time even to reverse their engines and jump off before death was upon them; the driver of the passenger-train, named William Ingram, and his fireman, named Tuttle, being both taken off the engine dead, as was the fireman of the coal-engine, named Philo. Prentiss.

"The shock was tremendous and its results awful, though, fortunately, neither of the engines left the line. The tender of the passenger engine was turned up on end, the wood for fuel being thrown in front and burying the driver and fireman. The first car was utterly destroyed, being jammed into a space less than six feet, while, to complete its demolition, the tender that had been tipped on end fell back on its roof. It contained thirty-seven men, and from its wreck thirty-six were taken out dead, only one man escaping with his life by falling between the platforms to the earth. Three of the cars in all were totally destroyed, and seven or eight of them so much broken as to be entirely useless, and it was in these cars that the greatest loss of life occurred; for, when the collision took place, two Union soldiers were placed as sentinels at each door on the platform of each car, which were also occupied by some of the rebels. Of the men thus standing all were immediately killed save one or two.

"As soon as possible the survivors set to work under the guidance of the captain in charge of the body, to extricate the dying and wounded from their fearful position, and, in the mean time, word was sent to Shohola apprising the authorities there of the state of things, who immediately telegraphed for assistance to Port Jervis. The scene is described by those who escaped as most appalling: the road blocked up with debris, car piled upon car in the most indescribable confusion, the bodies of those thrown from them covering the road at every step, the flying dust and blinding smoke from the quenching fires, the noise of the escaping steam, and, above all, the fearful groans and heartrending cries of the injured and expiring. Some of the corpses were shockingly mutilated, heads completely crushed, bodies transfixed, impaled on timbers or iron rods, or smashed between the colliding beams; whilst one man was discovered, dead, sitting on the top of the upturned tender, in grotesque and ghastly mockery of the scene around him.

"When the cries of the last wounded had directed the searchers to his place of imprisonment, and the last corpse removed from its temporary tomb, it was found that the victims numbered sixteen Union men and forty-four rebels, dead; while the wounded numbered about 120, some of them wounded mortally—indeed four have since died, and a number of others cannot be expected to recover. After an inquest had been held, a large trench was dug, by the soldiers and the railway employes, 76 ft. long, 8 ft. wide, and 6 ft. deep, in which the bodies were at once interred in boxes hastily constructed—one being allotted to four rebels, and one to each Union soldier. The wounded were conveyed as soon as possible to Shohola, where they met with every attention and aid that surgical skill could suggest and the limited accommodation permit."

ACCIDENTS IN MINES.—In the year 1863 there were 997 deaths caused by accidents in and about the coal-mines of Great Britain, 226 less than in the year 1862. Of the deaths 163 were caused by explosions of fire-damp, 407 by falls in mines, 147 by accidents in shafts, 134 by miscellaneous underground accidents, and 56 by accidents at the surface. There were also in 1863 ninety-one deaths caused by accidents in and about the inspected ironstone-mines of Great Britain, fourteen less than in 1862; nine of these were from explosions of fire-damp, thirty-nine from falls in mines, twenty-seven from accidents in shafts, nine from miscellaneous accidents underground, and seven from accidents on the surface. In South Wales one life was lost to every 45,390 tons of coals raised, and that has been about the average of the last eight years. In Scotland the deaths are as low as six per 1,000,000 tons raised.

THE POLISH INSURRECTION.

FEWER and fewer are the reports which reach us of any fresh incident which shows us that the insurrection in Poland is maintained. By the latest intelligence of the movements of the Russian authorities, which is contained in the news from Leipsic, a village has been destroyed, and all the inhabitants sent to Siberia, because some Poles had beaten a Russian spy. And then the official paper of Warsaw publishes a proclamation which clearly shows that the little mercy afforded to Polish refugees, through the intervention of Monsignore Felinski, by the Grand Duke Constantine, is to be no longer extended, but that the confiscations of the days of the Emperor Nicholas are to be recommenced. This is the text:—"According to the conditions imposed by the Imperial ukase of 1850, Polish subjects (refugees in other countries) are liable to punishment for contumacy, and to the confiscation of their possessions. Now, the very considerable number of inhabitants registered as absent for no known reason renders it necessary to inquire strictly into the case, and discover whether such absentees should not be considered as refugees, and coming under the application of that ukase. For this reason, the chief of the police of Warsaw has given orders to his whole corps that strict inquiries should be made at the house of each absent individual as to his present residence, and the cause of his leaving home, taking for the basis of such inquiry the register of the population, and for means of information the examination of the relations and servants of the absent persons. Information will thus be acquired whether the absentee contemplates returning; where he is at this date; where is his property; what are the reasons of his absence; and if, from the facts discovered, he is liable to punishment according to the rigours of the law of 1850."

The latest accounts from Warsaw state that 300 persons sentenced to Siberia have been sent out. The greater number of them belonged to the upper classes. They were dressed like convicts, their heads shaved, and chained together two and two. Several of these prisoners died of hunger and fatigue. More frightful accusations are made, and women have torn the skin from their faces to save themselves from the attentions of their oppressors.

In Lithuania Mouravieff transported the populations of entire villages. Such has been the fate of the inhabitants of Prujany, whose crime was having bastinadoed a person whose conduct appears to have richly merited that punishment. The goods of the victims were sold, the Russian officers, as usual, having laid hands upon whatever was most valuable. The farms of the inhabitants of Prujany will be distributed to Russian cultivators brought from the neighbourhood of Moscow.

Mouravieff has, by a recent decree, declared every master who may be guilty of speaking any other language than Russian to his servants liable to a fine of 300 roubles.

The Russians hanged lately, in the district of Gostyn, a patriot named Enoch Schetolcman, who had covered himself with glory in the struggle against the enemy. The cord broke twice, and twice the victim fell to the ground. Canon Zinowski was fined fifty roubles for not having taken off previously to the execution the cross suspended round the victim's neck. Crosses erected in the villages expose the inhabitants to heavy fines, and are finally torn down by the Russians.

The Government, however, has organised a new system, by which the inhabitants of Lithuania are deported whether they are guilty or innocent of any political offences. The country being, for the time at least, vanquished and the insurrection suppressed, no opportunity is lost for its depopulation; and Polish families are compelled to remove from their hereditary estates and to journey to the interior of Russia, where they are provided with possessions of equal value. First to depart have been those who are merely suspected of political influence; and our Engraving represents a company of these landowners preparing, with their shepherds, cattle, and household goods to quit their country for the land of their compulsory exile.

THE COUNTRY ROUND RICHMOND AND PETERSBURG.

RICHMOND, the capital of the Confederate States and the principal city in Virginia, stands on a considerable hill, or elevation, above tide-water level. The country to the south and east is rather low, and even, with only slight elevations; but on the north and west the land is very rolling and uneven, and generally bare of large timber. The south and east, on the contrary, have many tracts covered with large trees on the low or flat land near the watercourses. In many places the flats are marshy and insalubrious, especially on the banks of the rivers. The tidal ebb and flow extends up to Richmond and Petersburg, but no further. The rivers have high and precipitous banks, while the streams are shallow and rapid. Beyond Richmond, and running along the bank of the James River, there is a large canal extending as far as Lynchburg, the river itself not being navigable so far up at any season of the year or for any class of vessels. The bank of the river on the north is much more elevated than on the south.

In the neighbourhood of Petersburg the country is rather low and level, with only slight undulations, and is much better wooded than near Richmond. The Appomattox River is shallow and rapid above Petersburg, which stands on its margin; but has tidal water and good navigation up to the city during the whole year.

Such is a brief description of the country in which the armies of Generals Grant and Lee confront each other; but the evils of the pestilential character of the locality, the swamps on the margin of the James River being as deadly as those of Walcheren or Terracina, are likely to tell much more on the Northern than on the Southern host, as the men composing the latter are better acclimated, and therefore more able to withstand the influence of the night fogs which arise round City Point, Bermuda Hundred, and other spots on which Grant's forces are posted, than are their Northern opponents. A late letter from Richmond remarks that though "General Lee has exacted a heavy toll from General Grant between the 3rd of May and the 3rd of June, the James River will assist him in August and September, as much as that memorable night of frost, in 1812, in which 20,000 French horses perished, aided the Russians."

Speaking of the prospects of General Grant's campaign, the writer of the letter referred to above, says:—

Two railroads feed Richmond from the south—one the line from Wilmington to Weldon, Petersburg, and Richmond; the other, the railroad which comes up from Greensborough through the centre of North Carolina, enters Virginia at Danville, and, running through the heart of the State, reaches Richmond from the south-west. It may be at once conceded that there is little likelihood that the first—the Petersburg and Weldon Railroad—can be kept open. Grant's army lies so closely in its proximity, and his cavalry can strike it in so many points along the sixty miles which intervene between Weldon and Petersburg, as to negative its utility. It would be a waste of power for General Lee to try and keep it in operation. Upon the other railroad, or rather upon the ninety miles of it between Richmond and the Staunton River, General Lee's defensive ingenuity will be exhausted. This railroad is, in its nearest point, distant about twenty-five miles from Grant's extreme left, and trends away from him into the interior of Virginia, so that an interval of ninety miles divides him from the bridge over the Staunton River. Can this railroad be kept substantially in operation? It has already been destroyed at intervals for thirty-five miles northwards from the Staunton River by a mingled body of Federal cavalry and infantry; but, inasmuch as no important bridge has been destroyed, the damage can be repaired in fourteen days. I will at once express my conviction that Grant is not strong enough either in cavalry or infantry to do more than dash at this railroad and inflict from time to time light damage upon it. Richmond can never be starved out until these two railroads from the South, as well as the James River Canal and the railroads from the North, can be utterly annihilated, and can be kept annihilated. As an illustration how quickly damage, if lightly inflicted, is repaired I may mention that the Virginia Central Railroad, which was destroyed for many miles by Sheridan upon the 11th of June, has for some days past been open and running to Charlottesville, whence it continues indirectly to Lynchburg. This line alone would, in addition to the James River Canal, abundantly victual Richmond, although every other line were cut. In short, to talk of Richmond being besieged because Grant's army environs Petersburg, twenty-two miles away, is about as reasonable as to pretend that London was on short rations when Napoleon's army menaced England from Boulogne, in 1804.

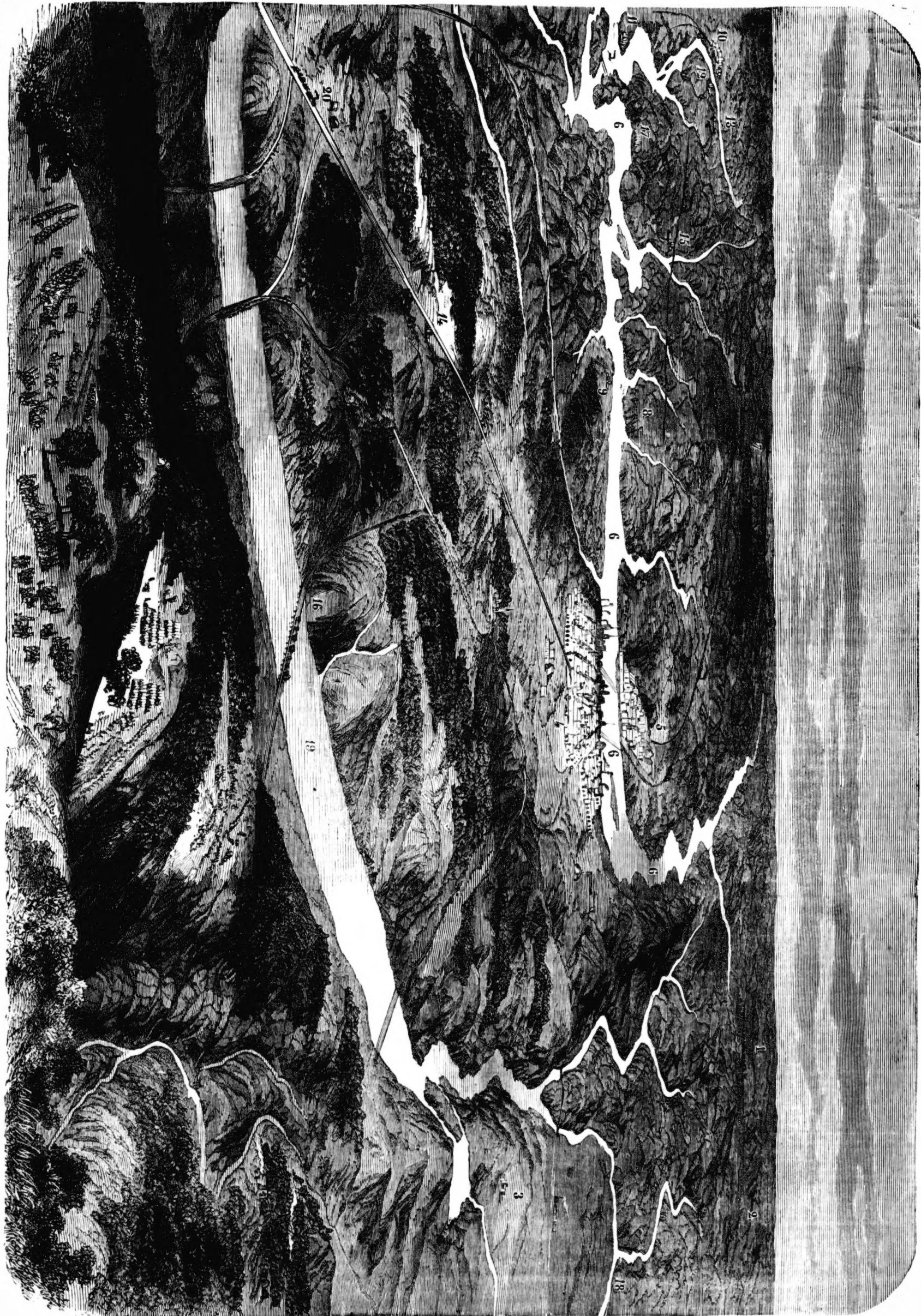
A DESTRUCTIVE FIRE occurred at Georgetown, Demerara, on the 8th ult., by which property to the value of 1,500,000 dollars, was consumed.



FORCED EMIGRATION OF THE PEOPLE OF LITHUANIA INTO THE INTERIOR OF RUSSIA.—(FROM A SKETCH BY M. CAZULL.)

- 1. Charlottesville.
- 2. Gordonsville.
- 3. Newmarket.
- 4. Richmond.
- 5. Manchester.
- 6. James River.
- 7. Lynchburg.
- 8. Fort Darling.
- 9. Chatham.
- 10. Petersburg.
- 11. City Point.
- 12. Poeburn.
- 13. Appomattox River.
- 14. Fair Oak.
- 15. Chester.
- 16. New Bridge.
- 17. Watkins.
- 18. Pamunkey River.
- 19. Old Katonah River.
- 20. Savage Station.

THE WAR IN AMERICA—BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF THE COUNTRY AROUND PETERSBURG AND RICHMOND.



Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JULY 29.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

Parliament was prorogued this day by Royal Commission, the Commissioners being the Lord Chancellor, Viscount Sydney, the Earl of St. Germans, Earl De Grey and Ripon, and Lord Wensleydale. A hundred and four bills received the Royal assent, after which the Commons having been summoned, the Lord Chancellor read the following message from her Majesty:—

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

We are commanded by her Majesty to release you from further attendance in Parliament, and at the same time to convey to you her Majesty's acknowledgments for the zeal and assiduity with which you have applied yourselves to the discharge of your duties during the Session of Parliament now brought to a close.

Her Majesty commands us to inform you that she greatly regrets that the endeavours which she made in concert with the Emperor of the French, the Emperor of Russia, and the King of Sweden to bring about a reconciliation between the German Powers and the King of Denmark were not successful, and that the hostilities which had been suspended during the negotiations were again resumed. Her Majesty trusts, however, that the negotiations which have been opened between the belligerents may restore peace to the north of Europe.

Her Majesty having addressed herself to the Powers who were contracting parties to the treaty by which the Ionian Republic was placed under the protectorate of Great Britain, and having obtained their consent to the annexation of that Republic to the Kingdom of Greece, and the States of the Ionian Republic having agreed thereto, the Republic of the Seven Islands has been formally united to the kingdom of Greece, and her Majesty trusts that the union so made will conduce to the welfare and prosperity of all the subjects of his Majesty the King of the Hellenes.

Her Majesty's relations with the Emperor of China continue to be friendly, and the commerce of her subjects with the Chinese empire is increasing.

Her Majesty has been engaged, in concert with the Emperor of Austria, the Emperor of the French, the King of Prussia, and the Emperor of Russia, in an endeavour to bring to effect an amicable arrangement of differences which had arisen between the Hospodar of Moldo-Wallachia and his suzerain the Sultan. Her Majesty has the satisfaction to inform you that this endeavour has been successful.

Her Majesty deeply laments that the civil war in North America has not been brought to a close. Her Majesty will continue to observe a strict neutrality between the belligerents, and would rejoice at a friendly reconciliation between the contending parties.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

Her Majesty commands us to convey to you her warm acknowledgments for the liberal supplies which you have granted for the service of the present year, and towards the permanent defence of her Majesty's dockyards and arsenals.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

Her Majesty has observed with satisfaction that the distress which the civil war in North America has created in some of the manufacturing districts has, to a great extent, abated; and her Majesty trusts that increased supplies of the raw material of industry may be extracted from countries by which it has hitherto been scantily furnished.

The revolt of certain tribes in New Zealand has not yet been quelled, but it is satisfactory to her Majesty to know that a large portion of the native population of those islands have taken no part in this revolt.

It has been a source of much gratification to her Majesty to observe the rapid development of the resources of her East Indian possessions and the general contentment of the people inhabiting those extensive regions.

Her Majesty has given her cordial assent to many measures of public usefulness, the result of your labours during the Session now brought to a close.

The Act for extending to women and children employed in various trades the regulations applicable to factories in general will tend materially to preserve the health and improve the education of those on whose behalf it was framed.

The Act for authorising the grant of Government annuities will encourage habits of prudence among the working classes, and will afford them the means of securely investing the results of their industry.

The Act for authorising a further advance for public works in some of the manufacturing districts will contribute to alleviate the distress in these districts, and will afford the means of completing many works of marked importance for the health of the population.

The Act for giving increased facilities for the construction of railways will diminish the expenses attendant upon the extension of those important channels of communication.

It has afforded to her Majesty the most heartfelt satisfaction to observe the general well being and contentment which prevail throughout her dominions, and to remark the progressive increase and development of the national resources, and to find that, after sufficiently providing for the public service, you have been able to make a material diminution in the taxation of the country.

On returning to your respective counties you will still have important duties to perform essentially connected with the linking together of the several classes of the community, and her Majesty fervently prays that the blessing of Almighty God may attend your exertions and guide them to the object of her Majesty's constant solicitude, the welfare and happiness of her people.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The House of Commons met at half-past one, and a great number of questions were asked of Ministers and replied to. Afterwards, Mr. Hennessy called attention to the conduct of the Middlesex magistrates in regard to the Prison Ministers' Act. Sir G. Grey having replied, Mr. Kinglake called attention to our relations with Mexico, and condemned the proposed recognition of the empire as being premature. Lord Palmerston justified the course which the Government had taken. His Lordship had scarcely sat down when the Commons were summoned to the House of Lords to hear the Royal Speech, and the Session was closed.

THE COINAGE OF THE REALM.—A return to the House of Commons just issued gives an account of all gold, silver, and copper money of the realm, coined at the Mint, for each year from the 1st of January, 1854 to the end of 1863. During those ten years the number of sovereigns coined was 47,629,614, and of half-sovereigns 12,058,970; the total real cost or value of the metal represented by the coin being £53,659,104 2s. 6d. Of the silver coinage no piece of a higher denomination than the florin has been coined during the period in question. Of florins there were struck 13,069,370; of shillings, 20,188,393; of sixpences, 16,787,520; of groats (only in 1854-5-6), 1,837,694; of fourpences, 41,580; of threepences, 18,495,796; of twopences, 47,520; of pence, 79,200; of three-halfpenny pieces, 479,670. The total value of silver coined in the ten years was £3,002,287 6s. 5d., the real cost of the metal being £2,957,990 5s. 8d. The total value of the copper coinage issued during the same period the same period was £958,065 5s. 2d., the purchase value of the copper in which was £466,543 7s. 5d. Half-farthings continued to be issued up to 1856, but not later. The bronze coinage issued first in 1860 has entirely superseded the heavier copper coins previously in circulation. During these ten years 2,595,954 oz. of worn silver coin was purchased for re-coining, the loss by which was £107,680 13s. 5d. The average yearly price paid per ounce for silver bullion in the market varies from 5s. 14d. to 5s. 14d.

THE KINGDOM OF ITALY.—The Italian Government has just published the results of the first census taken since the different annexations. The population of the entire kingdom is now 31,777,334 souls; so that Italy is the fifth Power in Europe by the number of its inhabitants, being superior to Spain and Prussia, the territory of which countries is, however, considerably larger. The average population of a commune in Italy is 2821 inhabitants, whilst in France it is only 978; but, in a given extent of country, there are twice as many communes in France as in Italy. The population is the most dense in the south and the most scattered in the Marches and Emilia. The average population is more numerous to the square mile than in France and Prussia, but inferior to that of England, Holland, and Belgium. Lombardy and Sicily are the provinces in which the greatest increase has taken place during the last few years, next to which come Sardinia and Naples. The increase in Piedmont has been much slower, which may be partly accounted for by the wars of 1849 and 1859.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 1864.

EMIGRATION TO AMERICA.

WHEN the mills in the north of England were stopped for want of the material blockaded upon the South American shores by Northern vessels, or destroyed by tons in the course of the war, our own public at once foresaw and provided against severe distress in the manufacturing districts. It was, however, not foreseen that the wholesale carnage, against which an outcry of horror and indignation has been raised throughout our land, would be fed with the bodies of our pauperised labourers.

For a long time it has been known that under colour of hiring labourers, Yankee agents have been employed in deporting Irishmen and enlisting them in the ranks of the Federal army. Such acts, when confined to the Hibernians, whose love of fighting for its own sake is a national characteristic, scarcely evoked much reprehension. Most, if not all, of the Irish recruits were perfectly aware of the nature of their intended employment, and, in fact, were rather pleased at the easy means by which the law against recruiting for foreign service could be evaded. Nor was the nation altogether sorry to lose such citizens as those who, with open eyes, went forth to the other end of the world to cut throats in a quarrel in which they could have no possible interest, and which, certainly, none of them could understand. Many of them, it is true, left under the representation that they would thereby, at some future time, have an opportunity of being led to fight against the hated English. But a turbulent Irishman in America is far less troublesome to the United Kingdom than when he is within it; and if, as the chances are, he should happen to be killed in the service for which he has emigrated, he is, of course, less troublesome still.

But the matter assumes quite a different aspect under the light thrown upon it by the remarkable speech of Lord Edward Howard in the House of Commons last week. This speech is specially notable in one respect—namely, that on the part of the Government, as well as the Opposition, a hope was expressed that it would be circulated throughout the length and breadth of the land. Surely, such a compliment, if even upon the choice of a subject, was never before paid to a Parliamentary orator.

Lord Edward Howard's speech was thus honoured because it was a plain, unvarnished statement of facts which should be known, and because no gloze of party politics distracted his hearers' attention from the merits of the case. His Lordship showed that, under the pretext of offering lucrative employment to labourers, Federal agents are exporting heads of poor English families to New York, and there, by tricks worthy only of last-century crimps, kidnapping them into the ranks of the North. The emigrants are underfed, but supplied with the horrible whisky of New York, than which no more detestable preparation of alcohol is known, and upon awaking from stupor find themselves transformed into Yankee mercenaries. If they should possess moral strength to resist the temptation of ardent spirits, they are starved into submission. The bounty-money by which they are bribed, even when they get it all, which is rarely the case, is in reality only worth half its nominal value. The artisan who, when in England, is promised weekly wages in America of from eight to nine dollars (or about 35s.), finds to his dismay that the actual value of the New York dollar (greenback) leaves his earnings at about 16s., with which he has to meet high war prices. Consequently, he finds himself not only expatriated, but worse off than in his native country. If he enlist—and every influence is brought to bear upon him to do so—it is not the ordinary hazard of war which he embraces, but the certainty of slaughter, disease, want, maiming, or imprisonment. This is why and how the Northern States continue their sanguinary onslaughts upon the Southerners. They need care nothing for the lives of strangers and hirelings, so readily obtainable that, when Lord Howard spoke, he could aver that 10,000 persons were waiting in Switzerland to join the Federal army. Switzerland, Germany, Ireland, and England alike furnish their quota to the ranks doomed to destruction. Paid in paper, they cost next to nothing. And thus the blood of Europe is being drained and its labourers carried off to support a war fatal to its own industry and exhaustive of its charity.

Lord E. Howard's suggestion for the remedy of the evil was philanthropic and practical. It was, that "the manufacturers should set their mills working, if only for ever so short a time." This is really the most rational and economical mode

of preventing the spread of the mischief. Make it worth the labourer's while to stay in England and he will scarcely desert Manchester for New York. To drive him away by low wages, or by offering him no work or wages at all, is to empty the labour-market; and consequently, when the time shall arrive, as it must, that labour will be scarce, to force its price upwards until the importation of foreign hands will be as great a necessity as in a new country.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN intends to be present at the inauguration of the Albert statue on the North Inch of Perth, which ceremony is to take place about the end of the present month.

THE PRINCESS OF PRUSSIA, daughter of Queen Victoria, has painted four pictures in oil, representing the principal episodes of the taking of Düppel by the Prussian troops.

PRINCE HUMBERT, the Crown Prince of Italy, is to visit England this year, after his visit to the Emperor of the French.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON attended a ball at Vichy last week and danced a quadrille with a young peasant girl of the neighbourhood, having for his vis-à-vis a sergeant of the Voltigeurs.

GREAT PREPARATIONS have been made at Bradford for the visit of Lord Palmerston on Tuesday next, on which occasion the noble Lord will lay the first stone of the new Exchange.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE has had a fresh attack of the malady under which he has so long suffered—gout—and it has, in consequence, been impossible for his Grace to leave London for Clumber Park, Notts, as he had intended.

A POSTHUMOUS VOLUME OF POEMS by the late King of Bavaria is shortly to be issued.

EX-SECRETARY CHASE is reported by the New York papers to be on the eve of a visit to England.

M. DONATI, the astronomer of Florence, has just discovered a new comet in Coma Berenices. It is visible to the naked eye.

GEORGE FRANCIS TRAIN has been chosen a delegate to the Chicago Democratic Convention from Nebraska.

POSTAGE STAMPS may now be received in payment of taxes in Scotland and Ireland.

IN VIENNA, cartes de visite and other photographic representations of deceased persons are now frequently inserted in their tombstones, covered with glass.

UPWARDS OF SIXTEEN THOUSAND DOG FISH were caught in one night last week by the men belonging to the Victoria, off Plymouth, not far from the port.

A FIRE BROKE OUT ON SUNDAY amongst the furze on Keaton Common, near Hayes, Kent, and the flames, fanned by the strong wind, spread with great rapidity, until a stretch of country about two miles in extent was in a blaze.

THE TWO BATTALIONS OF GUARDS IN CANADA may be expected home early in October. All the officers at present on leave in England are ordered to await the arrival of their battalions.

THE STEAMER CORINTHIAN was wrecked a few days ago off Oporto, when nearly 400 head of cattle and a miscellaneous cargo, valued in all, including the vessel, at over £20,000, were lost.

DIVERS have again commenced operations on the wreck of the Royal Charter in Meelfra Bay. On one day last week the divers brought up eighty sovereigns, on another twenty, and on another eight.

ONE OF THE ATTENDANTS AT THE STAFFORD COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM, named Challinor, has committed suicide by jumping from the roof of one of the buildings. He fell a distance of seventy feet and was fearfully crushed.

A YOUNG MAN, in the county of Madison, Kentucky, has been arrested just as he was on the point of eloping with his aunt, a married woman, with three children.

THOMAS COOPER, the Guardsman who was wounded while acting as a marker at Wimbledon, remains in a precarious state. He is visited daily by Surgeon-Major Wyatt, who still entertains sanguine hopes of his recovery.

A COLLISION occurred at the railway station at Margate, on Monday afternoon, which caused the death of one woman and serious injuries to several other persons.

HER MAJESTY'S MINISTERS were entertained at a banquet held at Fishmongers' Hall on Monday evening. The proceedings were of a purely complimentary character. Speeches were delivered by Lords Palmerston and Russell, but they only contained incidental political allusions.

LADY PALMERSTON on Wednesday performed the ceremony of cutting the first sod of the East and West Junction Railway at Towcester. The line will be of an important character as a connecting line. Lord Palmerston was present, and delivered to the assembled notabilities a speech expository of the vast advantages which railways have brought with them.

THE FOUNDATION-STONE of a memorial to the medical officers who fell in the Crimea War was laid on Monday at Netley by the Prince of Wales.

CRINOLINE has been suppressed at the opera in Paris in all costumes in which it is not absolutely necessary. This regulation, while it secures greater historical veracity and safety to the performers, is not at all relished by the female artistes. In fact, its promulgation very nearly caused a strike.

THE ARCHEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE has brought its meeting at Warwick to a close, after having visited, inspected, and lectured upon, Stratford-on-Avon, Charlecote, Leigh Priory, and every other place of interest in the neighbourhood.

HARVEST OPERATIONS have been commenced in various parts of the country. The crops, in consequence of the long drought, are generally light.

THE YOUNG MAN, BRICKNELL, who some weeks since murdered his sweetheart at Islington, in an uncontrollable fit of jealousy, was executed on Monday at Newgate. He seems to have been peculiarly resigned to die, and met his fate with a firmness not frequently witnessed under such circumstances.

A COUPLE OF MINERS, AT WASHOE, AMERICA, fought a duel recently with pickaxes for weapons. They were placed a rod apart, and advanced at a given signal. One hurled his pick at his antagonist and buried it in his eye. The wounded man lingered some days in horrid agony, and then died.

PROFESSOR KLUXEN, of Northern, near Aix-la-Chapelle was walking along the street the other day when another professor, M. Lang, rushed on him, and exclaiming, "We must both die," fired a pistol at his face, wounding him most dangerously. Then, taking from his pocket another pistol, M. Lang blew out his own brains.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Royal Society for the Protection of Life from Fire was held at the Guildhall on Tuesday. The results of the year's operations of the society were stated to be very satisfactory. One interesting part of the proceedings was the distribution of medals to the men who had courageously distinguished themselves in saving life.

MILTON HOUSE, in Barbican, is closed, and placarded with a singular announcement—"Removal of Heaven, the premises being required for the Metropolitan Railway." Heaven stands in this passage for the name of a tradesman, a dyer and cleaner of stuffs, whose new premises are a little further on.

MR. H. E. NICHOLSON, a commercial traveller, has been awarded £3000 by a Manchester jury as compensation for injuries sustained in an accident on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway. This was £1000 more than the plaintiff claimed, and a nice point of law has arisen in consequence as to whether or not the jury had power to make such an award. In the meantime it has been ruled that they had.

AN ENORMOUS QUANTITY OF PLACARDS WERE POSTED IN NEWCASTLE and the surrounding district on the occasion of the recent meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society of England. One bill-poster alone used the large quantity of two sacks and a half of flour in the manufacture of paste. In other words, fifty stone of flour was consumed in making paste in the course of a single week.

A MINUTE OF THE LORDS OF COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION, drawn up in consequence of the report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons, promises an inquiry into the feasibility of establishing night-schools at South Kensington to teach drawing to persons who cannot attend established schools of art.

A SAD ACCIDENT happened at Hetton Colliery, Durham, on Saturday last, by the bursting of a boiler. Two firemen were killed instantaneously, the body of one being found in a field 200 yards off. A child at a considerable distance was killed in its grandmother's cottage by a piece of the steam-pipe falling through the roof.

SEVERAL WORKMEN were engaged, on Monday, in raising an enormous iron girder intended to form part of the new railway viaduct over Ludgate-hill, when, unfortunately, the chain broke and the huge mass descended with a heavy crash. No lives were sacrificed at the time, but several of the workmen sustained severe, and in one or two cases it is feared mortal, injuries.

MR. MILLAIS has resigned the commission for designing the stained glass in five of the windows of Worcester College Chapel, Oxford. He has produced the design for one of the entire series of six windows; and the work, as executed by Messrs. Lavers and Baraud, is now in the South Kensington Museum, West Gallery. Mr. H. Holiday, an artist who has had great experience and been eminently successful in this branch of design as well as in others has undertaken to complete the task Mr. Millais has resigned.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

ABOUT three weeks ago there appeared upon the order-paper of the House of Commons a little bill, intitled "Mutual Surrender of Criminals (Prussia) Bill." It had come down from the Lords, had passed rapidly through its stages there without notice, and looked so innocent that it was hardly passing with equal rapidity through the Lower House. "It is only a formal bill to give effect to an extradition treaty with Prussia: nothing more. We have long had such treaties, you know, with France, America, &c., and now we have a treaty with Prussia, and this is to give it effect. Quite a harmless measure, I can assure you." This was the official language. Fortunately, however, Mr. White, the indefatigable member for Brighton, smelt a rat, as we say, and got this bill and read it, and very soon discovered that it was not by any means so innocent a bill as its title seemed to indicate; but, on the contrary, was one of the most venomous little reptiles that ever crawled in shape of a bill into the House of Commons. "Extradition of criminals, eh? Yes; but what criminals? Why, under the powers of this bill, I contend that political refugees may be delivered up." Of course the gentlemen on the Treasury Bench pooh-poohed such an idea. Lord Palmerston said that the supposition was ridiculous. Mr. White, however, would not be charmed away nor frightened; his suspicions were aroused; he thought—nay, was sure—that this was not a harmless but a very dangerous measure. And so thought Lord Robert Cecil and Mr. Seymour Fitzgerald; and in the end the Lord Palmerston had to confess that the character of it was "rather doubtful," and to consent to the adjournment of the debate. And what happened then? Why, Mr. Attorney-General was requested to look into the bill; and when next it was called on for discussion it was quietly withdrawn; from which I gather—indeed, I have privately heard—that Mr. Attorney-General's verdict was that the bill was dangerous and ought not to pass. Let all honour, then, be paid to the honourable member for Brighton; for, but for his sagacity and energetic action, we might have had, during the vacation—no House being in Session to question the Government—Prussian detectives prowling about Leicester-square and a batch of exiles quietly handed over to the relentless Government at Berlin. But who was it that launched this questionable measure? your readers will ask. To whom I can only answer that it came from the Foreign Office. I doubt, however, whether the Foreign Minister was aware of its dangerous character. Some bill-drawer was instructed to frame a measure to give effect to the treaty, and, having done his work, it was sent upon its course, and was probably not even read by anybody but said bill-drawer until Mr. White examined its clauses. I cannot for a moment imagine that Earl Russell, or Lord Palmerston, or Mr. Layard really intended to imperil the liberties and lives of the Prussian exiles.

The above was written in London. Thrice since I wrote it have I, who usually do the political in this column, taken up my pen, and thrice have laid it down again. My mind peremptorily turns away from politics, and all such vulgarities. Nor will you wonder at this when I tell you that I am now not in London, but in the lake district, at Rydal, sitting at a window which looks upon the house where Wordsworth lived and died. I am, moreover, a mile from Ambleside, half a mile from Harriet Martineau's house, while Grassmere is but two miles off on another road. In short, Mr. Editor, I am in a paradise; and, besides this, I have not seen a newspaper for two days.

I heard what I considered to be a good story the other day. A lady of the very highest fashion—"not to put too fine a point on it," as Mr. Dickens's Mr. Snagsby would say—a Marchioness, was anxious to reduce the pretensions of a lady of the publishing "connection," as Mr. Abraham Lincoln would say, in whose company she found herself. "My dear Mrs. Dash," said the Marchioness to her hostess; "I dined with dear old Lord Soandso yesterday. What odd people you do meet at his house! I wonder where he finds them. Why, one day when I was there he had three printers to dinner!" "Printers!" said the host. "My dear Lady Blank, are you sure?" "Oh, yes! quite sure they were printers. Lady Soandso told me so." "Did you hear their names, then?" "Yes; their names were—dear! I have such a sad head for names—oh! I remember two of them; one was a Mr. Hallam and the other a Mr. Macaulay."

You know how Frenchmen fight when they are unarmed. Like school-girls, they hug, say bitter things, and do not hurt each other. Last week, at the Promenade Concert in the Champs Elysées, a Monsieur Laurier, a barrister, puffed the smoke of his cigar into the face of no less a personage than Monsieur Mirès, the great financier. Monsieur Mirès, the great financier, hit Monsieur Laurier, the barrister, and a scuffle ensued; and to show how entirely French was the manner of the combat, the bystanders "found it no easy task to separate them." The matter is to be brought before the Police Correctionnelle.

We all know that the *Times* is a wonderful paper, and it would appear that among its numerous heads of departments it has a Bee-master. Let us quote a portion of a letter from this apian authority, in which he somewhat irreverently chaffs his editor. The Bee-master says:—

I am satisfied, from many considerations, that if people would eat honey at breakfast, instead of rancid London butter and nasty greasy bacon, not only would their health be better, but their temper would be sweeter. I find invariably that people who like honey are persons of affectionate and genial temper. If Mr. Cobden and Mr. Roebuck had only taken honey at breakfast, or a very choice fragment of virgin honey at dessert, they would never have given birth to those vinegar and acetic-acid speeches which did them no credit. I wish somebody would send Mr. Spurgeon a super of good honey. I intend to send you, as an expression of my thanks, a small glass of super honey filled from health during July. If you do not eat honey, which I hope and, indeed, am sure is not the fact, you can give a portion to any inmates of your great hive in Printing-house-square who may be prone to use their stings too freely.

Granting that the Bee-master knows the tastes of the editor of the *Times*, is he sure that Messrs. Cobden, Roebuck, and Spurgeon eat rancid London butter and nasty greasy bacon at their morning meals?

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.
THE MAGAZINES.

Blackwood is a fair number this month, only the article on the Vote of Censure is downright silly. There is nothing which better tests the quality of a man's (or a party's) mettle than the way of taking defeat. One excuses a little folly at first, while the wound smart; but the Tories have now had time to sleep on it, and have risen not "sadder and wiser" but sadder and sillier. Last month, before I had even tried to guess who Cornelius O'Dowd might be, I said he was, at last, showing a thin, shallow mind. It is now pretty confidently "calculated" that O'Dowd is Pisistratus Caxton. He is, this month, again out of his depth. It was greatly to the honour of Pisistratus that the man who wrote "Pelham" at last wrote "Zanoni." Still more to his honour that the man who wrote "Zanoni" struggled upward, still nearer to the light, and at last wrote "My Novel." But, after all, we have here a mind carrying a burden of aspiration which is too great for it—a mind wanting in the highest kind of sincerity; consequently, it is always breaking down. On one of O'Dowd's topics last month I quite agreed with his conclusion; on the other I disagreed; but on both I found his reasons ridiculous. Does the reader think these things matter of opinion? Not a bit of it. If a comparative anatomist put a bone of an ichthyosaurus along with the bone of an elephant in trying to build up an animal, we should say at once he did not know his business. Well, that is just what some writers do. You can tell at a glance that they have not, as the French say, "approfondi" things. Cornelius O'Dowd is always mixing up incongruous bones, and it is as easy to take his measure as a philosopher as it is to add up a column of figures. I have hardly done justice, in my previous references to *Blackwood*, to the manliness, humour, and sound worldly wisdom (*passes le mot!*) of "Tony Butler." It is a very good story. There is some nice, sparkling, summer poetry in *Blackwood*; and the papers about Public Schools are well and wisely written.

The *Cornhill* begins a new story by the author of "Cousin Phillis," and the opening is pleasant and promising. The paper on "Little Monaco" (see Tennyson's poem of "The Daisy") will be

agreeable reading to people who may be curious about that toy principality. "Margaret Denzil" is as subtle and as vivid as ever. Of the late Mr. Senior we are told something in a short, moderate memoir, and there are other interesting matters in the number.

Two of the articles demand special attention. The "Morality of the Doctrine of Averages" is an utter mistake—it is the work of a man who can use his pen epigrammatically, but who is setting about a task for which his cast of mind and previous studies have disqualified him. The article is clever, but misapprehensive: it is, from beginning to end, fighting windmills. Part of the blame of writing like this must go to the account of the late Mr. Buckle, whose utter incompetence as a thinker (which is no secret, and never was one) gave the school to which he belonged good cause to beg that it might be saved from its friends. The Doctrine of Averages is, as to its essence, as old as human speculation. Its place in philosophy is not in the least affected by the tabulation or non-tabulation of chances, and all this pretty talk is firing in the air.

Mr. Matthew Arnold must have a word to himself concerning his remarkable article on "The Literary Influence of Academies." This gentleman shows more and more, as he gets older, that exasperating perversity of mind which made his illustrious father so perplexing a study. He is quite just in his criticisms of other men's writing; but to call the faults signalled by the name of "provincialisms"—to speak of them as indicating want of "centrality"—does seem very odd. A man of genius, like Mr. Matthew Arnold, must—once fancies—have gone a long way round before he came to think of academies in such a connection. I should say that the specimens of bad writing instanced are very nearly all cases of *manufacture*, indicating a want of *truthfulness* in the minds of the authors quoted. The passage (about Shakespeare) out of Ruskin I call *fantastic*—it comes of an over-strained mind. The passages out of Burke are not only coarse (an academy might deal with coarseness), they are *false in tone*. The passages out of Mr. Kingslake are also *false in tone* (though in a far less degree). They are the writing of over-conscious men, driving a "style" and resolved on "effect." This is very likely "provincial," but it is something far worse; and the very best French literature distinctly shows that same "something worse"—in spite of its freedom from "James-Gordon-Bennettism," or the leading-article style which Mr. Arnold so justly hates. By-the-way, how came he to write such a sentence as this:—"On the breast of that huge Mississippi of falsehood, called history, a foam-bell more or less of no consequence"? Mr. Arnold is always welcome; he is, from time to time, contributing most useful thought to the common stock; he is a most chaste and cautious writer; but he, too, is "provincial" in his way; and sorely has his poetry suffered for it, beautiful, cold marble as it (often) is. I write this, having nearly every line of it at my finger's end. It would be wrong to say that Mr. Arnold has the hushed manner of an undertaker or a doctor about him—and yet his prose invariably reminds me of the noiseless gait of Mr. Nicodemus in "The Vampire" (is not that the fact?). Hush, hush! the gentleman has taken his boots off, and Minerva's ante-room is floored with the patent Kamptulicon! This is, I fear, "provincial," but it is quite honest, and I feel bound to write it. One word more. Mr. Arnold quotes, as an instance of Mr. Palgrave's intelligence, his placing in juxtaposition in the "Golden Treasury" poems COLXXXV and COLXXXVI. Quite right; but Mr. Palgrave would have been unfair to Shelley if he had not also added COLXXXVII, in which Wordsworth sings (subduedly and with a difference) to the tune of COLXXXV.

In *Temple Bar*, Miss Braddon's story, "The Doctor's Wife," has taken on fresh life, and become again readable. Mr. Yates's "Broken to Harness" retains the characteristics I attributed to it when I first mentioned it—it is like a gossiping rattle in a cabriolet with a companion who has read in life and in books, and remembered what he has read, without being cynical. Mr. Sala's wonderful memory is as fresh as ever, and he has two articles in the present number. In "Manners to Mend" he complains, in his jaunty way, that modern euphemism threatens to drive plain-spoken fellows like him off the press. But, blessings on his chubby innocence! he will fall on his feet, happen what may.

The literature of *London Society* presents, as usual, little to criticise. The "Ordeal for Wives" is the best thing in the number. The illustrations are, as usual, good.

In the *St. James's*, the inexhaustible Miss Braddon begins a new story—"Only a Clod," and very well she begins it. The scene is, where do you think? In Van Diemen's Land! And cleverly it is laid, too. By-the-by, the name of the great firm Sandeman and Co. is not spelt with a double n. *There's a criticism!* In another column the reader will find, this week or next, a very smart "Railway Lyric" from this magazine. It is all very good except that line about "Sullen Saul of Tarshish," which I don't understand, either in its grammatical relation to the preceding line or otherwise. Sterne's bishop confounded Alexander the Great and Alexander the coppersmith, and my Biblical knowledge is quite at a loss to make out Mr. Black's Saul. Saul of *Tarsus* I have read of; but I did not know that he was ever "sullen." The "sullen" Saul was King of Israel, you know. Then Tarsus was the capital of Cilicia; while Tarshish (2 Chron. ix. 21) is supposed to have been Tunis, or Carthage, or somewhere in Spain. The rest of the *St. James's* is pretty good. Mr. Scoffern has a nice, moderate article about second sight, which I can recommend.

Good Words is very varied and interesting this month. In the article on "The Affinity of the Senses," the writer challenges modestly, but intelligently, the received theory of vision—that is, the Berkeleyan. I suppose he is aware that Samuel Bailey, of Sheffield, has already done so with his usual acuteness. By-the-by, I saw a book advertised upon the subject the other day by a person whose name was new to me. It is a very interesting question, upon which I am happy to be inclined to agree with the writer in *Good Words*, who is evidently a thinker—a conclusion which I draw chiefly from what he is careful not to say!

The *Churchman's Family Magazine* is a good number. The article about the Foresters of Dean is very amusing and very instructive, in more ways than one. The writer mentions that the poor ignorant foresters, utterly remote from "the sound of the church-going bell," had invented a matrimony of their own, in the shape of a legal document for a term of years. Instead of praising these rough, bold men for the conscientiousness which went so far of its own accord, and instead of telling us how it worked, and whether these contracts, though revocable, were often revoked, the author rides off upon this neglect of "the services of the Church," and says that, after this, "it is hardly needful to add that the tone of morals and social order was of the very lowest. Two instances," he continues, "will suffice." Now, would any man, uncorrupted by a base, frivolous, snuffling, kid-glove civilisation, guess what follows? Do the men beat their wives? attempt the wives of their neighbours? leave their children to starve? steal the bread of the industrious? If they do, the writer does not tell us of it. The "two instances" which prove that these sturdy foresters were so very low in moral tone are these—they used to kill, sell, and eat the Royal deer! Yes, Sir; and "as regards the acquisition of land, if a forester wished to build a house, he would take in a piece of land, wherever he had a mind, and, fencing it round, would call it his own!" This is shocking depravity. If any man will only consider the nature and origin of the Crown rights in deer and in forest land; if he will read the evidence given before the Committee that sat upon the subject in the Session of 1863, he will be horrified on remembering the wickedness of these merry men of Dean, or else he will be lost in amazement at the blindness of the artificial conscience which calls their "moral tone of the very lowest."

The *British Army and Navy Review* is admirable, as good a magazine as any that could be named among magazines with specialities. The *Alexandra Magazine* and the *Intellectual Observer* both deserve a word of praise, and that is all that can be spared to them this time.

Christian Work I have noticed before as a really unsectarian magazine of philanthropy. The general reader will find it not the

least useful of the monthlies, if he likes to collect facts to think about.

Our Own Fireside claims—by its quotations from poor John Clare—a line or two. The author of the "Sacred Canon," on page 577, should have got Mr. Vincent Novello's "Tantum Ergo" out of his head before composing the first three or four bars of the music.

Lord Byron said he liked "something craggy to break his mind upon." Looking at the drawings of Mr. Marcus Stone to *Our Mutual Friend* this month, I come to the conclusion that he likes something craggy to break his mind upon—for the women, in both woodcuts, are mere skeletons.

THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

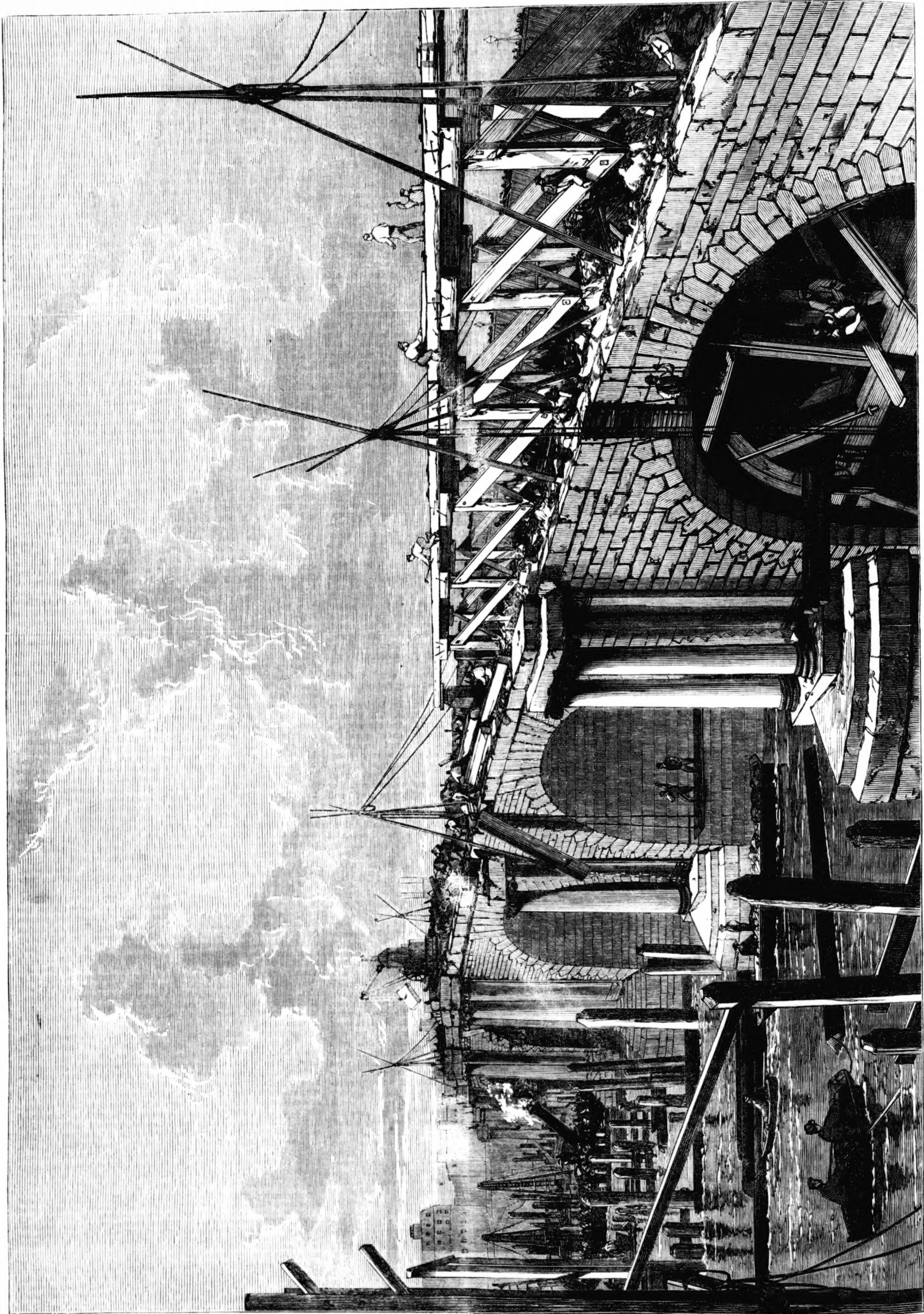
Mr. Boucicault's drama of "The Streets of London" was produced at the PRINCESS'S on Monday last with success. As the playbill very properly informs the audience, the piece is an alteration from the "L'auvre de Paris" of MM. E. Brisebarre and Eugene Nus, which about seven years ago Mr. Stirling Coyne introduced to the London public, at the Surrey Theatre, under the title of "Fraud and its Victims." "The Streets of London" is in five acts—that is, in a prologue and three acts, in the last of which, to quote the playbill, "the curtain descends precedent to scene the last." The prologue takes place in a banking-house in Moorgate-street. Crawley, a banker (Mr. W. Ray), having had a run of ill-luck, is about to abscond to New York, when Badger, his clerk (Mr. George Vining), informs him that he is aware of his defalcations and of his projected flight, and demands hush-money. Captain Fairweather (Mr. Mellon) enters and deposits £20,000 in notes, which Crawley takes, and for which Badger gives a receipt. The Captain, who has got an inkling of the state of Crawley's affairs, demands back his money, which he explains is the fortune of his children, and, failing to obtain it, is seized with an apoplectic fit—an incident infinitely too medically realistic for representation—and dies upon the stage. The money is in the hands of the fraudulent banker, but the receipt is preserved by the rascally clerk. Fifteen years are supposed to elapse, and the auditors find themselves in Drury-lane, before the pishop of Mr. Jonas Puffy (Mr. David Fisher), who, with his wife, Mrs. Jonas Puffy (Mrs. H. Marston), and their son, Master Daniel Puffy (Mr. Dominick Murray), have for the last few months been giving lodging and board gratis to Paul and Lucy Fairweather (Mr. Forrester and Miss Fanny Gwynne). These two interesting young people are, of course, the children of the sea-captain who died in the first act; and who have been reduced to poverty by the knavery of the banker. Mark Livingstone (Mr. Nelson), Lucy's affianced husband, arrives from America, unfortunately for himself and them, without a sou. He seeks Crawley, who has swollen into a millionaire, and asks his assistance. Crawley arrests the good-hearted pishop Puffy for debt, and proposes to Frank Livingstone that he should marry his daughter Alida (Miss G. Barnett), who has conceived a perfectly unreasonable and entirely feminine attachment for a foreign Count with the musical name of Anatole (Mr. Brooke). Lucy Fairweather, the seamstress, arrives with a new dress for the wealthy Alida; and shortly after Badger, returned from Australia, demands an audience with Crawley, insists on money, and threatens him with the production of the receipt. "Go and find out Captain Fairweather's real heirs," sneers Crawley, and at that critical moment Mr. Paul Fairweather is announced. Crawley offers Paul employment in Australia, and promises Lucy that he will release and relieve the Puffy family if she will give up her lover, Frank Livingstone, to his daughter. The unhappy brother and sister consent, and the triumphant Crawley gives Badger in charge of the police for an attempt to extort money. In the second act Charing-cross and Covent-garden on a bitter winter's night show that Paul and Lucy have not embarked for the colonies, but that they are reduced to the last extremity and are compelled to beg their bread. Badger, having, I suppose, served out his sentence, is a street-vender of playbills and lucifer-matches. In the first of these capacities he encounters Crawley, who promises to meet him at his (Badger's) lodgings in Pipemaker's-alley, Bedfordbury. What is called in theatrical parlance a "divided" scene, an effect familiar to the audiences of minor theatres, exhibits on one side the wretched garret inhabited by Lucy and her brother; on the other, the den of the blatant Mr. Badger. The afflicted brother and sister attempt to asphyxiate themselves, and the fumes of the charcoal affect even the vagabond tenant of the next room. This incident, which is entirely of the sham French sublime school, however highly approved of in the neighbourhood of the Porte St. Denis, by no means met with favour in Oxford-street. In the third act Badger, who has been converted to honesty and virtue, either by the deadly gas he has inhaled or by the pure breezes of Hampstead, risks his life in snatching the precious receipt from the house which contained it and which has been set on fire by the infamous Crawley. At last the banker's numerous villainies are punished, the son and daughter of the dead captain, after the endurance of an amount of misery which would have killed anybody but poor people with expectations, are restored to their rightful social status, felony is condoned, fraud pardoned, and virtuous poverty rewarded in large lumps—Mr. Badger, the peculating clerk, swindler, and thief, appearing as an active and intelligent member of the police force, the culminating point, or, as it were, apex of his reformation consisting in his adoption of the new regulation helmet.

"The Streets of London," notwithstanding some capital bits, is too sensational, and the sensational (which only means the *painfully* real) is the death of the ideal, and does not possess the real, true, lifelike interest of Mr. Stirling Coyne's drama on the same subject. A piece all sensation is like a pudding all plums, or a fish dinner all anchovy-sauce. There are too many surprises. The characters, even in the course of three hours, have not time to develop themselves. For the acting, Mr. Ray and Mr. Vining are to be congratulated on their personations of the only two full-lengths. Mr. David Fisher, Mr. Dominick Murray, and Mrs. Marston were admirable in the sketches entrusted to them. Miss Fanny Gwynne, who made her debut, looked very fair and interesting, which was evidently all that the author had intended his heroine to do.

The scenery and mechanism are beyond all praise. In the banking-house in Moorgate-street the bank-parlour, the bank, and the street were visible at the same time. The view of Charing-cross was a triumph of scenic illusion, and the action was reality itself. Playgoers crossed, policemen strutted, street-arabs tumbled, pishops tossed, advertising-mediums with illuminated hats walked, early coffee shivered, and late cabs rattled with the most perfect theatrical pre-Raphaelitism. Not a whit less admirable was the house on fire, with its tongues of flame, lurid smoke, falling timbers, shouting crowd, and real firemen—real fire-engine, drawn by *real horses*. I can imagine that in New York this incident attracted every fireman in the city to a "bhooy." Mr. Fenton and Mr. Lloyd, the artists, were called for and appeared before the audience, and the same compliment was paid to Mr. Boucicault at the fall of the curtain.

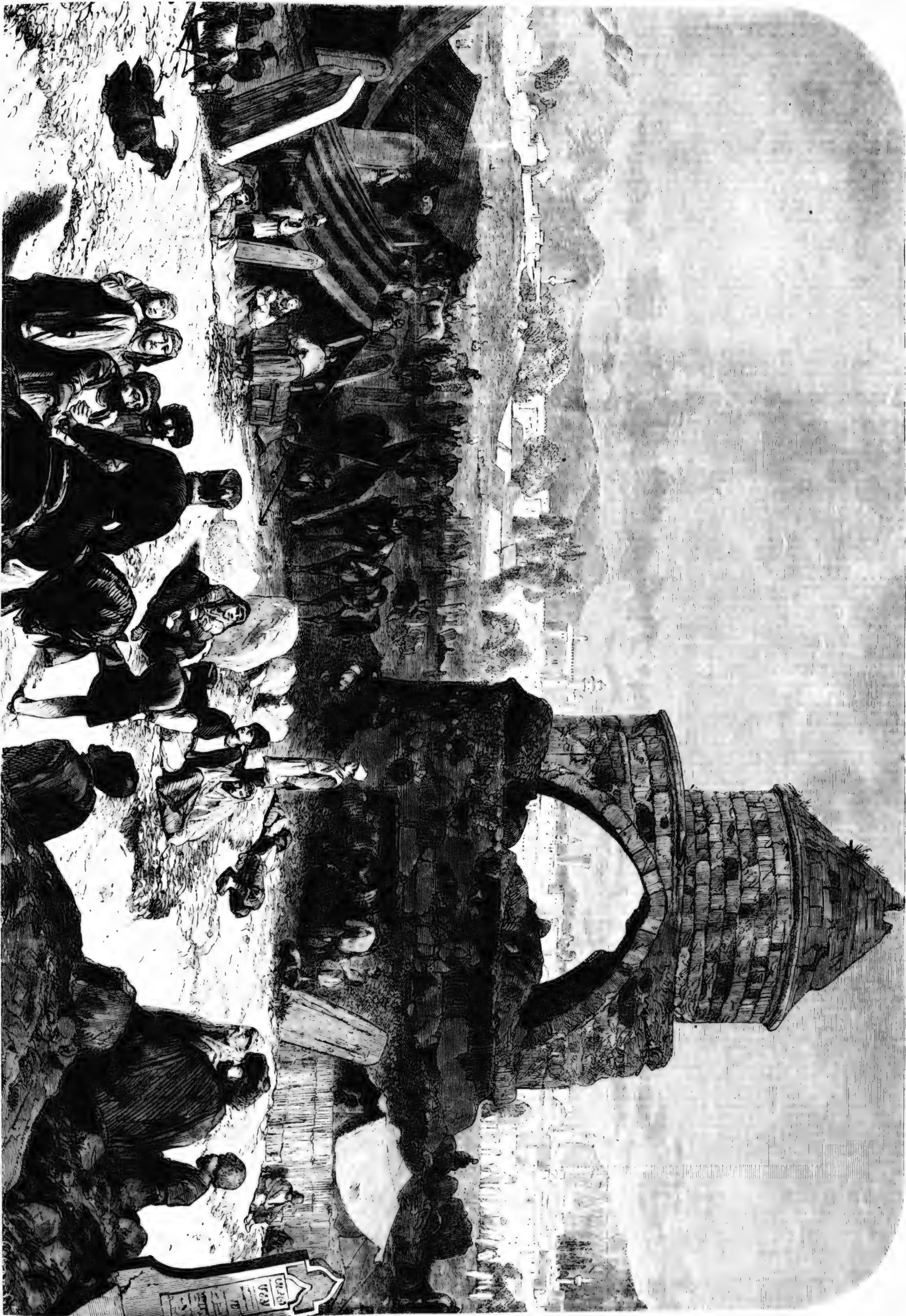
COMMUNICATION IN RAILWAY TRAINS.—The Board of Trade has issued a circular to railway companies inviting their attention to the adoption of means of communication, on moving trains, between the carriages and between the passengers and guard. Two modes are suggested for consideration: one to have windows between the compartments of each carriage, the other furnishing the carriages with footboards and handrails, so as to allow the guards, or, if need be, the passengers, to traverse the whole length of the train. The board requests reports on the subject.

LABOUR LOST.—M. Louis Revell, a young French author, being in London, lately happened to meet with an English novel which he found interesting. As it bore the usual notice, "the right of translation reserved," he applied to the publisher and obtained the necessary permission. Having finished his task, he offered his translation to M. Dentu, who, on reading the first page, exclaimed, "Why, you have actually been translating Paul Féval's 'Fils du Diable' into French!" and such was really the case. So that it would appear that the London publisher, after translating the work into English without permission, had authorised M. Revell to turn it back again into French!



DEMOLITION OF BLACKFRIARS BRIDGE.

THE CHICASSIAN ENDOUS.—ENCAMPMENT OF CHICASSIANS IN THE COUNTRY AT EREBROCK.



BLACKFRIARS BRIDGE:

BLACKFRIARS BRIDGE, as it has been familiar to the denizens of London for a hundred years, will ere long have disappeared, in order to make way for the new structure which is to take its place. The ledges have already disappeared, and the work of demolition is being busily prosecuted. Ere, however, the familiar fabric utterly disappears, a few particulars of its history may not be uninteresting. Mr. Timbs, in his "Curiosities of London," states that "Blackfriars Bridge originated with a committee appointed, in 1746, to examine Labeley's designs for improving London Bridge; though the architect of Blackfriars Bridge was Robert Mylne, a native of Edinburgh. The first pile of it was driven in the middle of the Thames June 7, 1760, and the foundation-stone was laid by Sir Thomas Chitty, Lord Mayor, Oct. 31. On Nov. 19, 1768, it was made passable as a bridge-way, exactly two years after its reception of foot-passengers; and it was finally and generally opened on Sunday, Nov. 19, 1769. Until June 22, 1789, there was a toll of one halfpenny for every foot-passenger, and one penny on Sundays. The tollhouse was burnt down in the riots of 1780, when all the account-books were destroyed. The total cost of building and completing the bridge and avenue thereto was £261,579 0s. 6d., including £12,250 17s. 6d. paid to the Watermen's Company for the Sunday ferry. The bridge is built of Portland stone, and consists of nine semi-elliptical arches, the largest being 100 ft. span, and 41 ft. 6 in. rise; the total length of the bridge is 995 ft., its width 45 ft. Here the elliptical arch was introduced about the first time in this country, in opposition to Gwyn, who, in his design, proposed the semicircular arch. Between 1833 and 1840 the bridge was thoroughly repaired by Walker and Burges, at an expense of £74,035, it is stated, at a loss to the contractor. The foot and carriage ways were lowered. On the Middlesex side of the river, east of the bridge, in 1845, was constructed, by Walker and Burges, a landing-pier, 185 ft. in length, the floating barge or dummy being 100 ft. long, and rising and falling with the tide in grooves at each end, formed by piles and protected by dolphins. This pier cost £4000, and was proposed in 1841, but was not decided on until after five persons had been drowned near the bridge by the breaking down of a temporary pier, July 22, 1844."

THE CIRCASSIAN EXILES.

THE last act of Russia towards those mountaineers of the Caucasus, to whose determined love of freedom the Muscovite rulers have always exhibited such aversion, has been to force them into exile by the slow but sure progress of an invading army. We had occasion in a former Number to describe the method in which, by the construction of military roads, the army of Russia gradually advanced upon the Circassian population of those once inaccessible villages. Little by little the hunters formed a cordon round the game, but the deer have broken away and fled to a voluntary exile rather than remain subject to a tyranny the brutal cruelty of which they have good reason to dread.

The Circassians, who by long experience have learned to contrast the humanity of the Turks with the cold repression of the Russian Government, have gone in hope of succour, or, at the worst, to die, to Trebizond, Erzeroum, Samsoun, Batoum, and other localities, where their wretched camps are pitched in the plains or on the mountain side. Three hundred thousand—men, women, and children—are in these places, almost destitute of any means of support, but in the midst of their despair determined to die there rather than submit to the "conquerors" who take possession of Poland by sending its people to Siberia and subjugate Circassia by driving out its inhabitants. The only excuse which can be advanced by Russia for this last exhibition of barbarism is that some of the predatory tribes occasionally crossed into Russian territory and committed depredations there. But even this ground of complaint does not apply to the tribes to whom, for the most part, the present emigration is confined, because they were the inhabitants of the mountain range; whereas those by whom the depredations were committed were the inhabitants of the plains bordering upon the River Khaban. It must be remembered that the exodus did not begin until the people (always poor) had been reduced to the last extremity of famine and wretchedness, and during their journey to the coast they had been subjected to such severe hardship that many of them sunk under it, while on their passage to Turkey thousands fell victims either to starvation or to disease produced by want.

All that the Turkish Government could do has been done to alleviate some part of the terrible suffering which has been brought before it; but the number of the emigrants is so large, and their misery so appalling, that the Turkish Treasury cannot support the demands made upon it; and it is said that to provide for them until they can either be received into the army or absorbed in the Turkish population would involve an outlay of about five millions. Some of these particulars were strongly dwelt upon at the recent meeting at the London Tavern, presided over by Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, and it is hoped that England—always foremost in works of charity—will render earnest aid in alleviating this awful misery. To this end, the Earl of Shaftesbury moved a resolution:—

That, notwithstanding the aid most liberally afforded by the Turkish Government, assistance from other quarters, particularly in food and clothing, is imperatively required for the relief of the sufferers; that a general appeal be therefore addressed to the British public for further aid on their behalf as a just tribute to the heroic sacrifices made by the Circassian emigration, and with a view of rescuing some portion of them from the appalling calamities under which they are still perishing from day to day.

The most terrible part of the condition of these wretched fugitives is that presented by the increase of disease amongst them. A correspondent, who witnessed the arrival of large numbers of them, says:—"Not only are they being landed in the most destitute state at the Turkish Black Sea ports, but disease, in the most virulent form of smallpox and typhus, decimates their numbers and unhappily spreads its contagion around. At Kustendjie, according to the latest accounts, the deaths had reached as high as sixty per day from smallpox alone; at Varna, Trebizond, Samsoun, and other localities, the mortality is even greater in proportion. Unfortunately the effects of this are already being felt even in the vicinity of the capital. At some of the villages on the Bosphorus smallpox has made its appearance, the contagion having been brought down from the Black Sea by persons recently arrived."

The Turkish General Nured Pacha embarked at Silistria to meet some of the emigrants, and was commissioned to help them in every possible way; to feed them, as far as food could be procured, and to locate them wherever they could find employment.

Of one vessel filled with exiles 150, who had died on board, were buried in the Black Sea, while the rest were under quarantine.

After forty years' determined resistance to the armies of Russia then, the three principal tribes of the Western Caucasus, worn out, destitute, and hopeless, have yielded to an overwhelming necessity, and fled with arms in their hands, voluntary exiles from their country. There is no circulating medium in Circassia, so that they arrive utterly destitute at the ports on the shores of Asia Minor, to which they are conveyed by ships provided by the Turkish Government. It is said that the Sultan has already subscribed £50,000 for conveying these people to Constantinople, housing them in refuges and hospitals, and sending them in small colonies as settlers into the interior. At Ineboli the number of fugitives amounts to several thousands, amongst whom smallpox, typhus, and dysentery were lately making fearful ravages.

The Pacha did good service in causing the sheds for washing the dead, which had been erected in the heart of the town, to be removed to the suburbs; he also forbade all interments in the cemetery, and caused a special place of burial to be found outside. He likewise prohibited the women and children of the quarter from having any communication with the immigrants, and levied a muster of horses, mules, and asses to transport as many as possible into the interior. Many of the resident families remained shut up in their houses for fear of contagion. As many as 150 inhabitants had caught pestilential disease. As for the Circassians, the number of deaths among them was increasing daily. A correspondent says:—"For-

tunately, there is plenty of flour, which is distributed daily by the authorities, otherwise they must all perish. With great difficulty we contrived to get some mutton, and a little beef is occasionally procured, but it is not fit for human food, for the animals are all diseased, and are strangled when they are no longer fit to stand. The Turkish women of the country, who deemed it a work of mercy and merit (*sebab*), were in the habit of coming indiscriminately to wash the bodies of the Circassian women who died; but this was very properly put a stop to by the Pacha, who set apart three or four specially for this sad task, and selected the Imam and another to perform the same melancholy duties for the men."

Very similar to this is the scene presented at Erzeroum, where, as represented in our Engraving, a number of exiles have formed an encampment in the cemetery—the dying amidst the dead. The ancient town of Erzeroum, the name of which is so familiar to everybody acquainted with Eastern travel, is on the great line of communication between Constantinople and the eastern portion of the Turkish empire.

Its narrow, dirty streets, the old and dilapidated citadel and ruined minaret, offer a strange contrast to the bustle which is going on from morning to night, and the crowd of Kurds, Persians, Armenians, and Turks thronging the bazaars and passing, in their varied costumes, in and out the numerous "khans" or the Custom-house, which is said to be the largest in the empire. In one spot outside the ancient walls, however, there is generally peace; for the Turkish cemetery is a place of rest, and a deep quiet is preserved amidst the white tombs and under the dark cypress trees where the dead sleep. It is here that, in the quiet of suffering and almost in the death of hope, the Circassian exiles have encamped; and their Turkish benefactors may well believe that, in helping these poor creatures, they are truly consecrating the burial-place of Erzeroum.

Literature.

NEW NOVELS.

Strathearn. By CHARLES ALLSTON COLLINS. 2 vols. Sampson Low, and Co.

St. Knighton's Keive. A Cornish Tale. By the Rev. F. TALBOT O'DONOGHUE, B.A. Smith, Elder, and Co.

Denis Donne. A Novel. By A. THOMAS, Author of "Sir Victor's Choice." 3 vols. Tinsley Brothers.

It happens that neither "Strathearn" nor "St. Knighton's Keive" are actually called novels in their titlepages; but yet novels they are, and therefore they may be expected to call up the question of what is wanted in novel-writing. However, as everybody knows perfectly well the requirements of fiction, perhaps there can be no "question" in the case; and, at all events, as everybody knows, there can be no occasion to give the information here. It is sufficient to say that neither of these novels come up to the standard of what people who read fiction have a right to demand. Not that the books are bad, but that they are not what they pretend to be. Mr. Collins's "Strathearn" is scarcely more than an episode, and that of a character long familiar to the world. He deals with a girl so drawn as to be just removed out of naturalness. She is not exactly super-natural, but she seemed to be of a different species to other girls. She has been strangely reared by a half-mad father, but becomes rational through suddenly meeting an English gentleman, who loses his wits just as she recovers hers. In brief, the Earl of Strathearn lets his castle and moors to an English shooting party, with the proviso that his daughter is to occupy a certain turret, but that nobody is to have the least communication with her, the Earl himself being supposed to be abroad. This half-mad daughter of a half-mad father happens to meet one of the party—a Major Gordon—and several scenes of a semi-weird character take place, and intense love is the consequence. In the end, the half-mad father, for certain reasons, seems to object to a reasonable match, and the girl immediately drowns herself, whilst Gordon goes abroad and joins his regiment in India, as people always do under such circumstances. Meanwhile, he who tells the story has been hopelessly in love with another girl who has been hopelessly in love with Gordon; but, despite the other girl's death, nothing definite happens to them; and, indeed, despite the one death, nothing definite happens to anybody. This is merely folly in story-telling. There is no story; there is scarcely anything told, except something that might properly enough have been made the incident of a story. Two volumes of such industrious incapacity are too bad. As for the pseudo super-humanity of the Earl's daughter, it speaks for itself. It has been worn to death. Only the "hand of a master" can give it freshness in the present day. Holmes, in "Elsie Venner," and Hawthorne, in "Transformation" (both Americans), are intensely strong in such things; and Macdonald, in "The Portent," although singularly ridiculous here and there, at least gives a general impression of poetic power which carries the reader through with interest. But the fascination and the poetry of the lady of Strathearn can only be described by the easy epithet "twopence-halfpenny."

Whilst Mr. Collins fails to astonish his readers by the reproduction of some ancient machinery, the Rev. Mr. O'Donoghue keeps his readers alive by sheer force of writing well and trying after not astonishment at all. He has a slight story to tell, but what that is may be easily guessed from the beginning. Lady Arundel offends her husband, Sir Edward, by granting an interview to a former lover. In mad rage he hurries her off to a secluded valley in Cornwall, and condemns her to the society only of a deaf and dumb companion. These two ladies have absolutely no intercourse with the outer world, and the outer world does not attempt to have any intercourse with them. The former lover has a curacy in the county, and, during a week's excursion, he meets his lost love, now evidently dying of grief and consumption. He, of course, endeavours to put matters to rights, and as he is doing so news comes that Sir Edward has died of cholera at Constantinople. Here things might be happy enough, but Lady Arundel dies also, and so does her companion. Reginald, the old lover, marries somebody else. This book will be liked for its interesting pictures of Cornish life and manners, for its knowledge of people, and the relation of certain gatherings of people to the Church and to Dissent. The story of the incarceration of the two ladies is improbable, but, nevertheless, it is likely enough founded on a Cornish tradition within the memory of the oldest inhabitant. The story is told, and well told, from the point of view that it is truth that is being related; and therefore, as a question of art, certain digressions concerning congregations and clergy may meet with objections. But on no other grounds could exception be taken. However, we must object to the hero, at an early period, dreaming exactly some of the leading features of the conclusion—a kind of fortune-telling which should have gone out of fashion with the late Mrs. Shipton and "Napoleon's Book of Fate." Moreover, novel-readers will not thank Mr. O'Donoghue for having made his principal characters such mere shadows that they scarcely leave an impression, and for having grouped his chapters with such want of skill that the principal features of the story are seen through at a glance.

Worldly people, as well as sentimental people, will welcome "Denis Donne." In it Mr. Thomas has treated the master passion with that liberality which distinguished the portrait-painter in "The Vicar of Wakefield" with respect to sheep—he has put in as much love as he could for nothing. For nothing, because, although the book is by no means for nothing, it happens that the most prominent characters are founded on ambition, and the love-passages are therefore, in reality, background and filling-up; but, nevertheless, the love-making is the really interesting part of the story, because love is the weapon selected to further the ambitious aims.

Miss Fanny Conway, residing in a London boarding-house, is made of stern stuff indeed, if that be the material of ambition. Left an orphan with £500, her plan has been to dazzle with reckless extravagance, backed up by good taste in dress and adornment, and captivating advantages of person and manner. But hitherto she has only been successful in fascinating a certain handsome Captain

Denny, and by an accident she misses him altogether at the very point when her money is all gone. Fanny is bitterly in love, but she is not so grief-stricken as to neglect her resources. She, under pretence of wanting something to do, accepts a most advantageous offer for a governess's place in the country, more especially as she hears that there is a remarkably handsome son on the premises. She is soon at work, although not with the son. Mrs. Donne, Dora, is the young second wife of Lyster Donne, Esq., a middle-aged gentleman, great in the county and passionately devoted to her, as well as to himself. Mrs. Donne's ambition is to rule over men, and Fanny Conway very soon catches her at her favourite game. She has an intrigue with a Lord Allondale; and, when Mr. Donne finds his Lordship at his wife's feet, that clever lady explains all by saying that Lord Allondale is only begging her to intercede for him with Fanny. Wild as this is, the Lord has to accept it, for Mr. Lyster is not a man to be trifled with; and, after all, it is understood to be simply a mere ruse; but, to the disgust of the compromised pair, Fanny Conway accepts his Lordship, and Lyster Donne, now thoroughly satisfied of his wife's prudence, blesses the young pair and toasts them in the "particular" champagne as if he had been born and bred to the business. Then enters Mr. Donne's son, Captain Denis Donne, of the Guards, who proves to be the very man who, under the assumed name of Captain Denny, has fallen in love with Fanny, but yet has made no sign. She treats him as a stranger, and he learns all about her sudden engagement with Lord Allondale. Of course they despise mutually, and as Dora and Fanny cordially hate one another by this time, as women always do when they have reciprocal secrets and are at each other's mercy, the party is one of the prettiest that can be imagined. Fanny marries Lord Allondale, and Denis soon becomes engaged to Stephanie Fordyce, his Lordship's cousin, who, by the way, is announced as the heroine of the book. Before long, Lord Allondale becomes intensely in love with his strangely-acquired wife, who returns it not, until certain chastening events occur, and a happy ending comes for many who deserve it. Dora, however, occasions annoyance after annoyance through her desire to lead mankind captive; and occasions, in the end, incidents of too great importance to be copied here for fear of spoiling a remarkably well-pressed interest. There are several other families concerned in the story, but we have traced only the principal thread of the many threads woven together, which commonplace expression must be pardoned, because it conveys exactly the meaning required. The struggle between these two young married ladies is told throughout with excellent spirit. Mr. Thomas has been most successful in both characters, which, it must be remembered, are in no way alike, although meeting on the common ground of cleverness and ambition. The author excels in sketching woman. The sensible, reasoning, natural Stephanie is a charming picture, of which we should like to see much more; and the Cornwall girls and their mother are quite lifelike. But the best female character is Allondale's maiden Aunt Crespiigny. A specimen must be given. The old lady is shocked at the contemplated mésalliance, and goes into the country to give Fanny a "talking to." At the station there is no fly, and she has to walk a mile or two, being all the while terribly plagued by frolicsome bulls. Fanny determines not to know her:—

"Who am I?" Miss Crespiigny interrupted indignantly. "This is too much. Who am I indeed? Lord Allondale's mother?"

She was about to state that the revered sister to whom she confided her son, in a measure, would ever be so cruelly insulted by a designing mixx who had beguiled Lord Allondale into the evil of contemplating a marriage. But Miss Conway stopped her at the word with a small shriek.

"This is too bad," she cried, "I know Lord Allondale too well to believe you." She elected to believe that the virgin aunt had declared herself to be Lord Allondale's mother.

At this Aunt Ellen did get very angry indeed, and called Fanny audacious, and other things that were not flattering in their truth. As Miss Conway adroitly interrupted her in the middle of her sentences, and Miss Crespiigny always forgot to finish a disturbed one, many of her statements did sound very extraordinary, to the full as extraordinary as the one that she was Lord Allondale's mother. She grew very angry and very incoherent; and the knowledge that she was making no headway, and the facility of this journey, and Miss Conway's repeated requests that she would be calm, rendered her momentarily more angry and incoherent. Usually when she spoke people not only listened but trembled—at any rate, they were very silent, only speaking to put her on the track when she lost it now and again. To speak fluently under difficulties was not given to Aunt Ellen; and as she stood there volubly giving utterance to incoherences, with a bit of torn frill in her hand, she was a sight to move friends to tears and foes to laughter.

Throughout, this description of a nervous and worthy old lady suggests a favourable comparison with Mr. Savage's "Bachelor of the Albany," &c. But Mr. Thomas is less successful with men. The women prove themselves well; but the men are never dramatic. Lord Allondale is said to be a fool, but he conducts himself like a sensible and amiable gentleman. The Bishop and his Chaplain—the latter strangely intended for a sketch of Sydney Smith—are described respectively as having talent and genius, but they keep it to themselves; and as for Denis Donne, he is no hero at all, but only a selfish man, and only one shade better than the wretched people who create so much mischief. But Sydney Brown (Smith) is the real hero, after all, and the best character amongst the men, and next to him, must range Mr. Lyster Donne.

"Denis Donne" is full of serious interest and amusing scenes. The style is lively, and carries the reader on from first to last with pleasurable ease. It has sterling qualities which no novel-reader will be inclined to neglect.

Ricordo a Shakspeare. Under the auspices of Shakspeare's Tercentenary Birth, Fifty Sonnets. By JAMES PINCHERLE, Private Linguist. Author of the "Miscellaneous Pieces." Trieste. Printed by the Austrian Lloyd's.

Mr. Pincherle has intelligence and feeling, and his Sonnets in honour of Shakspeare have, besides, a distinction of their own, as constituting a literary curiosity. We had intended (but space and time will not allow of it) giving them a somewhat extended notice, treating them as metrical studies, and placing them side by side with some of the verses of the Anglo-Italian school (Shelley, Leigh Hunt, Keats, &c.), for the purpose of illustrating the laws of metre and of metrical translation. As it is, we rest content with quoting a single sonnet out of the "fifty," calling the reader's attention to the fact that he will find the lines scan correctly if he will not give the words the dictionary accent. For instance, he must accent the syllables italicised in the following line:—

Good, *haring* the *burthen*, *good's* to *import*.

And now, if he will turn to Shelley's Letter to Maria Gisborne, or the lines beginning,

We wandered to the pine-forest,

or almost any of Shelley's later poems, he will guess at the sort of comparison of metrical structure we have had in our mind. But it will not be necessary to say that Mr. Pincherle cannot write English verse (he would be a superhuman person if he could) when we have quoted the following sonnet:—

LIFE'S RACE.

Out of a hundred ships, bound to a port,
Some, instead to reach it, do naufragate;
Still, we see the most part favoured by sort:
Thus, spite of Evil's crags, a Mischief's strait,
Good, having the burthen, good's to import,
Never can capsize, tho' it may come late
—From striking against them, damaged and hurt—
Safely in Weal's road, to cast anchor yet,
And be repaired—while some lurked for its wreck,
In malign obscurity, like pirates,
On it to fall, and, with greediness, break
Or cut asunder the solemn dictates
Of duty and conscience, for fear to lack
A rich prize—tho' surfet oft sufficates.

A WOMAN NAMED HARTLEY, OR BOWEN, has been committed on the Coroners' inquisition on a charge of wilfully murdering her infant son. The woman discharged herself from St. Pancras workhouse, then appears to have suffocated the child by rolling it up in a paper parcel, went to a public-house, drank gin, and stuffed the still warm body up the parlour chimney.

OUR FEUILLETON.

THEATRICAL TYPES.

NO. XII.—PROMPTERS, TREASURERS, MONEY-TAKERS, CHECK-TAKERS, SCENE PAINTERS, STAGE CARPENTERS, PROPERTY MEN, COSTUMIERS, CALL-BOYS, PERRUQUIERS, GASMEN, HALL PORTERS, GENTLEMEN'S DRESSERS, LADIES' DRESSERS, AND SUPERNUMERARIES.

THOUGH there may be no end to the myriad combinations of colour formed by the bits of glass in a kaleidoscope, and no end to the multifarious varieties of character developed by the singular conditions of theatrical life, there must be an end to a description of them. Kings are not more imperative than rhymes, and rhymes—on their own ground in books and newspapers—are not so imperative as space. There are many more types of player than have been treated of in these pages—many more than would be interesting to write of—and many more than the reader would care to hear about.

Otherwise many hundred words should be devoted to the Prompter, who is usually either a very young man, whose belief in the Manager and in the Stage-Manager is touching to witness, or a very old one, long past belief in anybody or in anything, including Shakespeare, but the creature comforts, his old pals, his old pipe, and his recollections of the old actors, to whom, to his mental vision, the modern men are but as a guttering rushlight to a glass-drop chandelier.

There is the Treasurer, called by the company, not inappropriately, the First Robber. He is generally a very prim personage, in the nattiest of collars, and hat and boots of the most dazzling blackness. He is a most intimate friend of the Manager, whom he hates, and who hates him. They know each other too well for anything like mutual esteem, but, as the knife to the fork, they are indispensable to each other. The treasurer assumes airs of patronage to the actors, and thinks it a very fast thing to address any of the corps de ballet as "my dear." Though a well-dressed man, he is a shade too showy for a gentleman; and the nape of his neck, which is always bulbous and self-assertive, lifts itself too far out of his coat-collar and gives a snaky suggestion of a back view of the throat of Mr. William Sykes of housebreaking celebrity. The treasurer has a good salary, and is invariably a prosperous man. All folks about a theatre thrive, except the actors.

Then, the Money-takers—ah! the Money-takers—they are a most difficult subject. Who would abuse an honest industry—who traduce the followers of a laborious calling? The cobbler who was asked why he applied for the situation of keeper to a lighthouse, answered that he sought the office because he disliked confinement. The same taste, perhaps, leads men who follow profitable callings to shut themselves up in a gas-perfumed box for half-a-crown or three shillings a night. Eighteen shillings a week is not much; perhaps there may be perquisites to eke the small sum out. Who knows?

Years ago, when the unhappy fate of George Barnwell still drew sob from ladies whose waists were two inches long, and whose skirts were about two feet wide, one of the patent theatres was managed by a gentleman who came from the other side of the Atlantic—a shrewd man, and an observant, with a quick eye for the mouth and nostrils of those whom he addressed.

Among other things, he noticed that his box money-taker avoided him. At the manager's approach he would dart up an entry or into a tavern or shop. All smiles and deference when spoken to, he seemed to dread a tête-à-tête.

This eccentricity set the Yankee manager thinking.

One day employer and employed—trusting one and trusted—met in Russell-street. As the money-taker removed his hat a thought "slantindicated" across the manager's brain. He acted at once on its suggestion. He pointed his right forefinger between the money-taker's eyes, and said,

"I KNOW ALL! Come to me in the treasury in an hour's time and tell me how far you are implicated, and I will not prosecute. If you do not come—*ouf!* I give you one hour."

And the manager walked off to the stage-door.

Within the hour the box money-taker had revealed a systematic plan of robbery, so artfully contrived and of so enormous an extent, that the manager stood confounded and aghast.

The money-takers and check-takers at each door of the theatre—that is, the whole gang—never again showed their faces.

"I am fearfully robbed at my doors," said a modern manager to a friend.

"Why not send your money and check takers away?" was the reply.

"What!" exclaimed the knowing director, "I have had these same men for the last twenty years. They have all acquired property—rows of houses and the rest of it. They are full gorged. Do you think I'd exchange them for fresh bloodsuckers? They would want rows of houses too. No. Give me my old and faithful thieves who like me, and let me off easily; a new lot would be my ruin!"

Not that these pages would assert that all money and check-takers are of the same profession as the forty gentlemen mentioned in the Eastern tale who met a deserved and oleaginous death at the hands of one Morgiana, who "potted" them in jars. But it is a hard fate to continually finger the cash of others; and constant opportunity is a terrible temptation.

The Scene-painter is usually one of the pleasantest men in the theatre. King in his snug painting-room high over the stage, he recks not of the whirl of passions and vanities below. It is a great power the theatrical scene-painter holds between his pliant thumb and fingers. He copies Nature on a large scale. It must be high delight to look upon a broad, flat, white surface, and choose whether it shall be converted into an Emir's palace, all pillars, curtains, gold tassels, fringes, and polished-mirror marble floor, the hot sun shining on a fountain in the distance; or into an Alpine gorge, with blocks of snow-covered stone and funeral fir-trees, with plains of ice conducting to a frosty horizon; or into a magician's cavern, where the dark rocks, cut in fantastic forms, loom into sight in the shape of squatting demons, petrified giants, and ghostly vertebrae of huge and hideous reptiles; or into a sparkling, rippling sea, with but one white speck of sail between it and the clear dome of blue sky above it. These are great privileges. But the great charm of the Scene-painter's life is to take off his well-cut, well-brushed garments, and don his painting-suit; then he revels in dirt, and daubs, and spots that are of his clothes, and not of him. How! That very faultlessly got-up gentleman, who just now asked for letters in the hall, that exquisite in the black frock-coat, pearl-coloured trousers, fashionable hat and perfect boots, can he be this canny creature, in a wideawake which a thriving farmer would be ashamed to see upon his scarecrow? That dirty jacket, those grimy trousers! Is it a beggar, who has made himself a suit out of old sail-cloth? No! It is an artistic gentleman, who owns a villa in the neighbourhood of Hampstead, who has choice wines in his cellar, and is a captain of volunteers. These are his working-clothes.

In these present days of scenic display, when even no poor ghost can walk undisturbed by scientific satellites, lime-lights, mirrors, and the like, the Scene-painter is a far more important person in a theatre than the Tragedian—not that the bearing of those gentlemen would impress a stranger with the fact; for by so much as the Tragedian is pompous, blatant, and assuming, the Scene-painter is easy, natural, and polite. Perhaps the Tragedian takes his tone from the brigand-chiefs and aspiring patriots, whose characters he assumes; and the Scene-painter, with his keen eye for the glories of colour and knowledge of the combinations of natural beauty, knows how to blend himself harmoniously.

The Stage Carpenter is a singular creature. He is the victim of a delusion by which he is bound, hand, and foot, and brain. It is a belief, as deeply rooted in his mind as is his two-foot rule inserted in his trousers-pocket, that while he is in the theatre he is "at work." If he is what, in theatrical parlance, is termed a day-

man, he reaches the theatre at a quarter to ten if the rehearsal be at ten, at a quarter to eleven if the rehearsal be at eleven, at a quarter to twelve if the rehearsal be at twelve, and so on. Once in the theatre, his first proceeding is to hide himself in the scene-dock where nobody can find him; he then takes off his coat, puts on his "working" canvas jacket, sticks a hammer in his girdle or apron pistolwise—after the fashion of bold buccaniers in penny plates—uses his coat-sleeve as a pocket-handkerchief, sits down in a corner, and goes to sleep. And here commences his delusion. It is his firm belief that while he has on his canvas jacket and his hammer stuck into his girdle that he is hard at work—nay, perspiring copiously. He will even carry this delusion out so far as to wake up after an hour and a half's nap and feel fatigued; so much so, as to be compelled to adjourn to the nearest public-house and recruit exhausted nature with half a pint; for he is also the victim of half a pint, or rather the victim of a pint and a half, not to say two gallons; and on those days when not an interval of labour, not the screwing out of an old nail from a rusty hinge, has occurred to vary the tedious monotony of slumber, he will declaim in the taproom on the wrongs of the working-man and the tyranny of employers. It has been said by a popular novelist of the day that no set of men can idle as nautical men can. From this observation it is evident that the servants of a theatre have never passed under that popular novelist's eye.

The Stage Carpenter works but once a year—for the production of the pantomime, and then he works *con amore*; for during the run of the pantomime the genius of stage-carpentry is properly estimated, and authors, actors, composers, musicians, and such mere idlers sink into their proper insignificance.

The Property Man—i.e., the man who looks after the chairs and tables and things moveable by hand, and who manufactures the sheep, fish, carrots, and huge chamber-candlesticks used in the pantomime—is a mysterious mechanic whose habits are unclean, predatory, and mendacious. His complexion is a singular compound of the perspiration of the Midsummer before last with the dust of the preceding Christmas. Dust rests upon his eyelashes as moss rests on the boughs of an old tree. If ever he wash himself—which is doubtful, save on his wedding day—his ablutions are made in the glue-pot. He is so sticky that, were he to lean against a wall, portions of his garments would adhere to it when he summoned up sufficient energy to walk away. Why does this gifted getter-up of gnomes, salamanders, dragons' heads, and faries' wings abjure cold water, and ignore all crystal streams save the pantomime fountains framed of wire, blue gauze, white Dutch metal, and spangles? Would his fingers lose their cunning if occasionally polluted by the use of soap? his tongue its power of ready excuse, or his brain its inventive faculty, if fluid touched his external man? The cause of this dramatic-mechanic hydrophobia is inexplicable, and ever must remain a mystery to be solved only by a treacherous member of the craft, who, converted to cleanliness by a Turkish bath, shall renounce the property room and divulge its secrets.

The Property Man has the same peculiarity as the oldest inhabitant, he never remembers anything; nor will he, no matter how familiar the object, confess that he has ever seen a specimen, or that it is procurable, save by the expense of large quantities of money, time, difficulty, and danger.

"Grimes!" calls the Stage-Manager.

Grimes is very often absent, not in mind, but in body; but an active Call-boy, knowing Grimes's haunts, fetches him from the tap, where he has been rendering himself more adhesive with half a pint of treacly beer.

"Grimes," says the Stage-Manager; very authoritatively if he be ignorant of his calling, but rather kindly if he have some perception of it.

"Yes, Sir!" answers Grimes, with respect and deference; for it is part of the Property Man's instincts to be too deferential and respectful.

"We shall use the red furniture for this farce."

"Yes, Sir."

"Tables, chairs, sofa, and all that, you know. And then there's breakfast things, and—and that's all. No—by-the-way, there's a cat wanted."

"A what, Sir?"

"A cat."

"A cat, Sir!" echoes Grimes, as if the word were strange to him as unicorn, phoenix, or ichthyosaurus.

"Yes. Should be a tortoiseshell."

"Taught us who, Sir?"

"Yes; tortoiseshell cat, I say."

The eyes of Grimes wander over the footlights into the empty pit, inhabited by the dust, orange-peel, mice, and fleas. After a pause he looks into the face of the Stage Manager and says,

"Where am I to get one, Sir?"

"Get what?"

"A—cat, Sir."

"A cat! Anywhere."

"Anywhere, Sir?"

Repetition is one of the principal weapons in the Grimes armoury.

"Yes, anywhere," says the Stage Manager. "Cats are plenty, are they not?"

"They may ha' been, Sir, some years ago; but I hardly never seen one lately," is the reply.

But the limit of our space is near, and there are many other specimens which must be left undescribed. There is the Costumier, who is a sort of cross-legged mixture of milliner and magician, and who thinks that the north star would shine the brighter if thickly spangled. There is the Call-boy, a clever imp of mischief, who recognises no aristocracy but that of talent, and no talent but that of the actor. There are the wig-makers—hold! the mere English word requires an apology; if tailors are costumiers, wig-makers must be Perruquiers, who weave dead men's hair into false scalps, and brush out cataracts of blonde ringlets without a thought of the beauty of the soil on which they grew. The rank grass that grows in churchyards has been called "the uncut hair of graves." Does no sexton association occur to the wig-maker as he plaits and weaves, and oils, and curls the terribly human-looking silk? It is to be supposed not. Custom hath made it in him a property of greasiness.

Then there is the Gasman, who, though his trade be odorous, manages to keep a clean face and hands. He runs about the theatre, nimbly correcting cross-grained taps and bursting batwings with his pliant pincers. Then there is the Hall Porter, who is invariably old; is an Irishman, and has served in the Peninsula, in an Irish regiment, and fought at Waterloo; and whose jaws have a grim rigidity, redolent of barrack-life; whose speech is a stiff civility, redolent of discipline; and whose grey, ratlike whiskers and few teeth are perfumed with whisky. There is the Gentlemen's Dresser, who has also been a soldier, who informs the actors that when he was in the marines "he were off the Gold Coast in the Devastator, and they had no shoes on them, Sir, and Captain Dabarn, as was the captain, was an awful severe man, and drunk—oh, how he did drink! He says to us one day on parade, 'You marines,' he says, 'I'll work you down to ile,' and he nearly did, and he would have been broke only he died off Sumatra, thank goodness! for if ever there was a beast he was." Time works wonders and the warrior-mariner has tamed down into a dramatic valet, and hooks and eyes doublets and pulls off yellow boots as deftly as he used to polish bayonets and pipeclay belts.

The Ladies' Dresser has usually seen better days, and is of the same ascetic, rusty, musty type as the pew-opener of a church, with, perhaps, a sprinkling more dust. She is invariably a widow, and her late husband was either the greatest wretch on record or the most perfect of his gay, perfidious sex.

Last of all, there is the Supernumerary—a dreadful trade, strange to say, pursued only by men and boys with thin legs. A muscular Supernumerary is a phenomenon that has never been known to occur, even in the memory of the oldest, most experienced, and stupidest of Stage-Managers.

There are many other types of theatrical character besides the few

that have been endeavoured to be portrayed in these pages—enough, with the permission of the public and the publishers, to make another series. To the outer world theatrical life is a deep, dark well, whose troubled waters are much feared and little understood; but Truth lived in a well, and a large amount of Truth and goodness dwells in the Theatre; and few, looking at the green froth of vanity that stagnates on its surface, would guess the richness of the pearls that lie beneath.

T. W. R.

THE "LATE" MR. JOHN STUART MILL.

THE readers of the reviewing columns of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES must have been startled last week by seeing the above phrase, "the late Mr. John Stuart Mill," in our notice of a book by Holme Lee. We are happy to be able to state that Mr. Mill has not died since the 26th ult., on which date his name was published as that of a contributor to the Washington Wilks subscription-list, and that he, in fact, still survives to serve his country and his kind.

The history of the mistake is edifying. Holme Lee referred in her essays to a paper upon Women by Mrs. Mill—a paper to which her bereaved husband has prefixed sentences of homage not less impassioned than those which are familiar to the world in the Dedication to her Memory which precedes the Miltonic appeal "On Liberty." Remembering that Mrs. Mill was not as well-known as her husband, we wrote the word "Mrs." with extreme care, in order to avoid a blunder. Not satisfied with that, we inspected the proof, and found that, in spite of our having written the word "Mrs." like print, it had got queried on the margin. We struck out the query, and once more wrote the word "Mrs." more plainly (if possible) than before. But what avail the best intentions? The immortal gods had determined that we should be made a fool of, and we were. The "Mrs." got turned into "Mr." for our sins, we suppose, since flesh and blood could do no more to prevent the error. Indeed, the proof-reader tells us we did too much, and by an irregular excess of precaution led him into a technical mistake.

But our friends shall not lose by it. In the first place, we can point afresh the old Talleyrand moral, *point de sile!*—which was, also, one of Bishop Middleton's golden rules. In the next place, it so happens that the paper is not much known to the general public, and, still worse, that Mr. Mill's testimony to his wife's noble character and "all but unrivalled wisdom" has, in a book of popular essays, been perverted to a purpose which both Mr. and Mrs. Mill emphatically disavow. We shall, thus, be doing service to the truth if we quote the opinion of the lady about what lecturers and literary small-fry call the "Influence of Woman on Society"—a very amusing expression, by-the-by, since it distinctly means the influence of the half upon the whole. However, here are some of the words of Mrs. Mill:—

"In Catholic countries the wife's influence is another name for that of the priest: he gives her, in the hopes and emotions connected with a future life, a consolation for the sufferings and disappointments which are her ordinary lot in this. Elsewhere, her weight is thrown into the scale either of the most commonplace, or of the most outwardly prosperous opinions—either those by which censure will be escaped, or by which worldly advancement is likeliest to be procured. In England, the wife's influence is usually on the illiberal and anti-popular side: this is generally the gaining side for personal interest and vanity; and what to her is the democracy or liberalism in which she has no part—which leaves her the Pariah it found her? The man himself, when he marries, usually declines into conservatism; begins to sympathise with the holders of power more than with its victims; and thinks it his part to be on the side of authority. As to mental progress, except those vulgar attainments by which vanity or ambition is promoted, there is generally an end to it in a man who marries a woman mentally his inferior, unless, indeed, he is unhappy in marriage or becomes indifferent. From a man of twenty-five or thirty, after he is married, an experienced observer seldom expects any further progress in mind or feelings. It is rarely that the progress already made is maintained. Any spark of the *mens divinus*, which might otherwise have spread and become a flame, seldom survives for any length of time unextinguished."

Of course, these are only the opinions of a woman; but, as it was a woman to whom a man like Mr. Mill was happy and proud to be "amanuensis" (his own expression), they may be worth quoting as a literary curiosity.

NAPOLEON I. ON THE CENSORSHIP OF THE PRESS.

THE following characteristic letter occurs in the last volume of the Napoleon Correspondence:—

"M. Fouché.—I read in the *Journal de l'Empire* of the 9th inst. that at the end of a comedy by Colind'Harleville this note occurs:—

Seen and permitted the printing and sale, pursuant to the decision of his Excellency the Minister of General Police, Senator. Dated, 9th of this month.

By order of his Excellency, P. LAGARDE,

Chief of the Division of the Liberty of the Press.

"I am astonished at these new forms, which the law only could authorise. If it were proper to establish a censorship, it could not be established without my permission. When my will is that the censorship shall not exist, I have a right to be surprised at seeing in my empire forms which may be good at Vienna and Berlin. If these be the result of an old usage, send me a report on it. I have a long time calculated the means of re-establishing the social edifice, and now I am obliged to watch over the maintenance of public liberty. I do not mean that the French should become serfs. In France all that is not prohibited is permitted; and nothing can be prohibited except by the laws and the tribunals, or by measures of high police, where public morals and public order are concerned. I repeat, I will not have a censorship; because every bookseller answers for the work he puts into circulation; because I have no wish to be responsible for the nonsense that may be printed; and because I will not allow a mere clerk to tyrannise over mind and mutilate genius."

"NAPOLEON."

THE BREMEN WINE-CELLAR.—The municipal wine-vault of Bremen is the most celebrated in all Germany. One section, called the Rose, from the bronze bas-relief of roses over it, contains the famous Rosenwein, which is now two centuries and a half old. There, six large casks of Rhine wine, Johannsburg, and as many of Hocheimer, were placed in 1624. In the adjacent parts of the same division of the cellar are twelve large casks bearing the names of the Apostles, and containing wines not less precious, but not so aged by a few years; the wine bearing the name of Judas is considered the best. The other parts of the cellar are occupied with wines of a subsequent growth. By degrees, as a few bottles of Rosenwein are drawn off, the casks are filled up with Apostle wine, and that with some sort still younger, and so on, in such a manner that the different casks are always kept very nearly full. A single bottle of Rosenwein now represents an immense value. A cask of wine containing 1000 bottles cost, in 1624, 1200*l.* Calculating that sum at compound interest with the expense of cellarage, a bottle would positively cost 10,895,732*l.*; and a glass, or eighth part of a bottle, about 1,361,904*l.* The Rosenwein and Apostle wines are never sold but to citizens of Bremen. The burgomasters alone have permission to draw a few bottles, and to send them as presents to Sovereigns. A citizen of Bremen may, in case of serious illness, procure a bottle at 20*l.* on his obtaining the certificate of his doctor and the consent of the Municipal Council. A poor inhabitant of Bremen may also obtain a bottle gratis, after having fulfilled certain formalities. A citizen has also the right of demanding a bottle when he receives any celebrated personage at his house as a guest. A bottle of Rosenwein was always sent by the city of Bremen to Goethe on his fête day.

THE NEWSPAPER PRESS FUND.—A general meeting of the committee and members of the Newspaper Press Fund was held on Saturday last at the Freemasons' Tavern—Lord Houghton in the chair. From the report read it appeared that the fund is in a very flourishing condition, a sum of more than £1300 now standing to the credit of the association. Several instances were alluded to of cases of distress which had been relieved by the committee, and of applications for relief which, unfortunately, could not be complied with consistently with the rules of the society, as neither the applicants nor their immediate relatives were subscribers to the fund. It was agreed to hold another meeting on an early day for the revision of the rules and the remodelling of the executive, both rendered necessary by the extension in point of numbers that the association has of late received; but there was a general expression of opinion (in which the chairman concurred) against any alteration in the fundamental rule that subscribers only shall be entitled to partake in the benefits of the fund.

COUNT BISMARCK-SCHONHAUSEN.

THERE are few men in Europe who have recently attained a worse reputation than Count Otto Von Bismarck-Schonhausen, the Prussian Minister; and if it be true that the insane and dogged arrogance of his Royal master is due to his influence, there are few men who deserve it more.

M. Von Bismarck has, during the period of his public life, graduated through various honourable appointments to his present position as Chief of the Council and Minister of Foreign Affairs; but it has been only since he has held this office that he has been regarded with any special interest, although he is now more than fifty years old, and has had a long official career as Councillor of the Regency at Aix-la-Chapelle, representative Minister at the Diet of Frankfort, and Plenipotentiary at St. Petersburg and at Paris. Count Bismarck-Schonhausen was born in Pomerania, and has generally been considered the head of the so-called feudal and mystically-religious party, or, in other words, of that party which recognises few rights save those of the rulers; and he is distinguished for the unscrupulous obstinacy with which he adheres to the most extravagant theories of his school. It would be difficult to say to what his persistence in such a policy might have led, had not the attention of the people been suddenly diverted from their own interests to the war with Denmark, of which the wily statesman so adroitly availed himself to avoid a crisis which would probably have ended in revolution. It will be remembered that the course both of the King and his Minister had been marked by stupid tyranny and unprovoked aggression till the presence of M. Bismarck at the Assembly, where he defied the regulations and insulted the members, led to the breaking up of the Parliament, whose powers were entirely superseded; while, grown outrageous by supposed success, the Ministry followed up their acts of tyranny by a series of exactions the discussion of which was forbidden in the public press as a crime against the Divine Right, patriotic politicians being punished by fine and imprisonment.

The health of the King requiring that he should drink the waters of Carlsbad in the summer of last year (there was a rumour that his Majesty suffered from monomania), Count Bismarck attended him during his retreat, and it was believed that on his return a strong organisation would be able to withstand the growing power of the Ministry; but the Prussian people were dazzled by the occupation of Schleswig, and the opportunity was lost.

Our readers have already been made acquainted from week to week with the influence which the Chief Minister has exercised in all the councils respecting the war in Denmark. What course he will ultimately adopt is still matter of conjecture, though it is believed that he will countenance an Austro-Prussian alliance, notwithstanding his constant antagonism to Austria and the desire that Prussia should hold the dictatorial place in Germany. Those who believe in these negotiations say that the Conservatives at Berlin, led away by their foible for the reverse of what is commonly called the moral conquest of Germany, have given the Austrian Government to understand that, if allowed to act as they like in the duchies, they would, in all probability, be in a position to

procure that guarantee of territory so frequently demanded and so eagerly desired by three successive Kaisers. Count Rechberg, being aware that the military party are as powerful as Herr von Bismarck, did not deem it advisable to reject the overtures

and her lover appear. They have followed her, but arrive only in time to witness what appears to be her death, and really is so as the opera is performed on the French stage. At Her Majesty's Theatre, however, she, like her lover in an earlier scene, again comes to life.



COUNT VON BISMARCK, PRUSSIAN MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

they made; but, considering how little he risks in countenancing Prussian politics for a time, he resolved to test the consistency of their assertions, without, however, giving an inch more than he received. That Herr von Bismarck has identified himself with the plan got up by his military friends others consider very improbable. Not to speak of his inveterate and almost personal hostility to Austria, he is regarded by them as too clever to stake his all on a single card when the prospects are ten to one that it will lose. Before the King engages to protect his integrity on conditions the Kaiser would be alone disposed to regard as advantageous to himself, he must have ceased, it is alleged, to be a Hohenzollern. To keep Venice and Hungary for the Kaiser is not only to consolidate the tottering strength of a rival, but also to neglect the only opportunity for making that progress in Germany without which the Prussians would consider their position as untenable.

SCENE FROM THE NEW OPERA OF "MIRELLA."

WE have already, in our notices of the performances at Her Majesty's Theatre, given a brief outline of the plot of the new opera of "Mirella," and now publish a scene from the work.

The libretto of "Mirella" is founded on a popular tale by Mistral, a Provençal poet. The incidents are few and simple. The scene is laid in the south of France. Mirella, the daughter of a wealthy farmer, is a rustic belle, whose hand is contended for by the young men of the district. She has given her heart to Vincenzo, a poor but handsome young basket-maker; but her father favours the addresses of a herdsman called Urias, whose brutal strength makes him an object of general terror. When Raimondo (her father) is solicited to consent to her union with Vincenzo he sternly refuses, and commands her to marry Urias; on which Mirella passionately declares that she loves the poor basket-maker, and will wed no other. The savage herdsman, enraged at his rejection, vows vengeance against his favoured rival. Waylaying Vincenzo in a solitary place, he attacks him, strikes him down with his club, and leaves his victim for dead. His murderous intent, however, is frustrated, for Vincenzo's wound is not fatal; he receives assistance and is saved. Meanwhile, Mirella remains sunk in despondency, but tenderly treated by her father, who now repents his cruelty. In this condition she hears of the outrage suffered by her lover, and determines on a pilgrimage to a distant shrine, that she may pray for his recovery. She sets out on her weary journey, but grief and exhaustion under a burning sun disorder her reason. She sees an ecstatic vision of a splendid city, which she believes to be Jerusalem, and which, though existing only in her heated fancy, is represented by the scenepainter as a reality. This is the scene depicted in our Engraving. She arrives at length at the end of her pilgrimage. A procession of pilgrims is entering the church, and she is entering with them, when her repentant father and her lover appear. They have followed her, but arrive only in time to witness what appears to be her death, and really is so as the opera is performed on the French stage. At Her Majesty's Theatre, however, she, like her lover in an earlier scene, again comes to life.



SCENE FROM THE NEW OPERA OF "MIRELLA," AT HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE—MIRELLA'S VISION.

NEW BUILDINGS IN BURLINGTON- STREET.

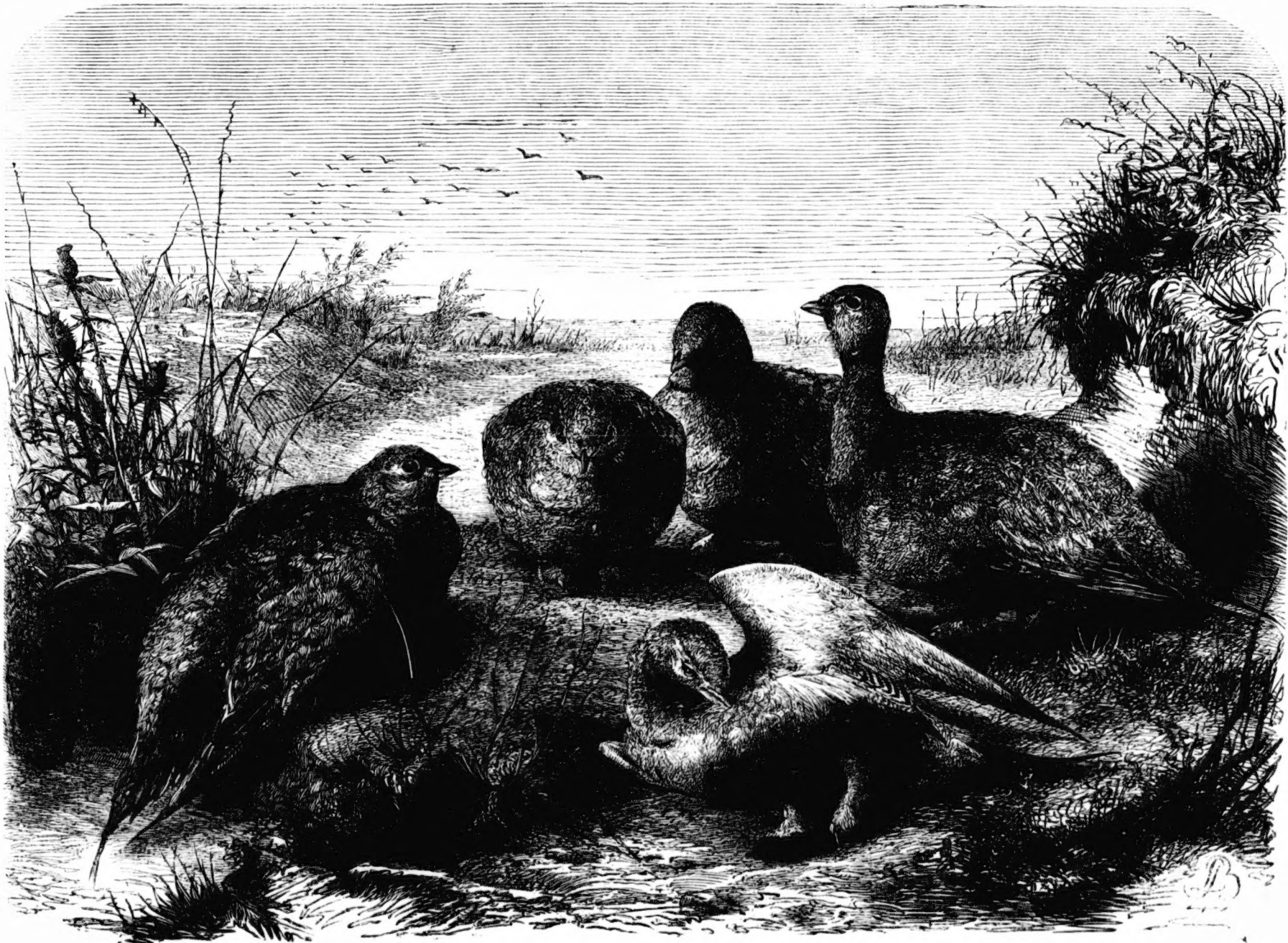
A MARKED improvement has of late years taken place in our street architecture, and certainly some improvement in this respect was needed. Not only in the City itself, where we now see in many places lofty and spacious buildings occupying the sites of indifferent and worn-out structures, but in the west end of the metropolis many handsome and substantial houses are being erected. Not the least noteworthy of these structures are the new buildings which have lately been erected for Messrs. Landon and Gledhill, on the site of the town residence of Lord Braybrooke, in New Burlington-street and Saville-row, and of which we this week publish an Engraving. The old house, built by Lord Burlington, had large frontages, and was constructed of fine bricks, with stone embellishments, in the Palladian style. Here lived Richard, Lord Braybrooke, the editor of Pepys's "Diary and Correspondence;" and here, most probably, his Lordship prepared that popular and amusing work for the press, though the preface to the third edition (1848) is dated from his Lordship's country seat at Audley End. The upper part of Messrs. Landon and Gledhill's new premises is intended to be used as a club or chambers, and the lower portion for the business purposes of the proprietors. The architect is Mr. Johnson, of the Adelphi.



THE NEW BUILDINGS ERECTED ON THE SITE OF THE MANSION OF LORD BRAYBROKE, IN NEW BURLINGTON-STREET (MR. JOHNSON, ARCHITECT.)

THE TARTARI PRAIRIE-HENS.

AMONGST the experiments in acclimatisation which have lately been conducted with so much success, not the least interesting has been the attempt to rear the birds of the Tartar steppes in the Zoological Gardens at Cologne. These wildest of all wild fowl are peculiar to the immense wastes inhabited by the nomadic tribes of Tartary, and are themselves as free and as few in number, compared with the vast area they inhabit, as are the people from whom they were obtained. The steppehen, whose scientific name is *Syrhaptes paradoxus*, was first brought to Cologne in 1859, and, after some little difficulty, it is believed that the birds may be acclimatised in northern Europe, though it is very doubtful whether they will for some time become accustomed to more southern climates in exchange for the cold blasts of the Tartar deserts. The birds at present thriving in the gardens at Cologne are apparently about the size of a pigeon, but they are really much smaller, the fluffy and scaly feathers which hang somewhat loosely on their bodies giving them an appearance of greater size. The upper part of the body is of a sandy-yellowish colour, variegated with black lines and spots, while the neck and breast are a kind of ashen grey, and the under part of the body either black or dark brown; the beak is of a bluish-white colour.



BIRDS FROM THE TARTAR STEPPES IN THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS AT COLOGNE.

and the eyes a brilliant red-brown. They evidently belong to the pteroclines or sand fowls, differing, however, from other species by their short beaks and the peculiar construction of the feet, which have a flat sole, like that of an ostrich, sharply granulated and furnished with three toes, which grow together almost to the points. On their singular-looking short feet they hop with a peculiar gait, not unlike that of pigeons, but if their walking power is limited, their flight is amazingly swift and strong, and the rushing of their wings as they sweep through the air can be heard at some distance.

True to their natural condition, the birds at Cologne prefer to remain, even during the cold weather, in the open aviary, and rarely retire to the covered shed provided for their accommodation. Their food principally consists of small seeds.

The peculiarity of the foot, which bears no slight resemblance to the ordinary German glove, in which all the fingers go into one division and the thumb alone is separate, has procured for the *Syrhaptes paradoxus* the more homely name of fausthuhn, or fistfowl.

THE OPERAS.

MR. MAPLESON'S "final performances" at Her Majesty's Theatre have not yet come to an end, and, if they continue to be as well attended as they have been for the last week or two, may be prolonged until the time shall have arrived for the English Opera Company to commence proceedings. Thus we shall have no operatic "recess" at all this autumn; and, in a city of three million inhabitants, it is indeed not surprising that there should at all times be a sufficient number of amateurs to keep at least one musical theatre open. This, we fancy, must really be the case, though managers seem hitherto to have believed that with the fashionable season the musical season also naturally terminated.

The season at the Royal Italian Opera terminated last Saturday with Meyerbeer's "Etoile du Nord," performed for the fourth time since its revival. A very brilliant season it has been, and this in spite of numerous promises left unfulfilled by the enterprising manager. So great a number of celebrated singers with and without voices was certainly never collected at any theatre in the world. To begin with, Mr. Gye is the only director who ever thought of engaging two such tenors as Mario and Tamberlik together, to say nothing of Naudin, Neri-Baraldi, and, last and also loudest, Herr Wachtel, with his notorious *ut de poitrine*. Then what a host of sopranos we have heard. Three "Margarets"—Patti, Lucca, and Artôt; two "Normas"—Lagrua and Grisi; the latter still almost on a par with the former as regards voice and her superior in dramatic power. Moreover, in consequence of Mdle. Lucca's sudden flight, Mdme. Miolan-Carvalho was specially engaged for the part of Catherine in "L'Etoile du Nord;" Mdle. Frick had been retained, as usual, to represent serious heroines in general, and no one heroine in particular; and we must not forget that Mdle. Marie Battu, a soprano conventionally of the first class, also belonged to the company, and, in secondary parts, was found really efficient. The principal baritones and basses were Ronconi, Graziani, Faure, Ciampi, and Dr. Schmidt. The company, taking it altogether, was undoubtedly most efficient. Its one weak point was—in spite of the number of excellent sopranos engaged—in the soprano department. Mr. Gye is still in want of a first-rate representative of such parts as Mdme. Grisi used to take, and which are said to have been admirably filled twelve years ago by Mdme. Lagrua.

As to the operas produced, it is remarkable that not a single new one was brought out. Nevertheless, Verdi's "Forza del Destino" had once more been promised, and one would think that the promise might this time, without much difficulty, have been kept, inasmuch as all the singers for whom the principal parts were written (Lagrua, Nantier-Didie, Graziani, and Tamberlik) were engaged this year at the Royal Italian Opera. This, we believe, is the chief sin of omission charged against Mr. Gye by the subscribers. The musical (as distinguished from the merely fashionable) public also complain of "Fidelio" not having been produced, in accordance with the announcement to that effect at the beginning of the season. Both sections of the public must regret that "Dinorah," with Mdle. Patti in the principal part (also announced), was not given; but probably no one cares much about the manager having failed to keep his word in respect to the production of Nicolai's "Merry Wives of Windsor."

Speaking of Nicolai's opera, we are reminded that another Shakespearean piece is about to be, or has already been, set to music. Rossini has operatised "Othello," Bellini "Romeo and Juliet," Verdi "Macbeth," Balfe and Nicolai "The Merry Wives of Windsor," and now Felicien David, we hear, is, or has been, at work on "All's Well that Ends Well." The effect of abolishing theatrical monopolies in Paris has been to give a great impetus to operatic speculations. Opera has grown up in France under the most absurd restrictions; and the forms that French opera has taken have not been in conformity with the genius of the nation, but have been forced upon composers by absurd legislation. Thus, the "Académie Royale de Musique et de Danse" was, until a comparatively recent period, the only theatre that was allowed to play operas at all; while, on the other hand, it was not merely allowed, but was absolutely forced to include in each of its operas a ballet. Whether or not the subject of the drama naturally admitted the introduction of a certain amount of dancing was never considered. The license of this theatre was for music and dancing, and the music and dancing had to be taken together. The ballet came on in "Medea and Orestes," as under the old regulation it would have had to come on in "Norma." "Norma" had "Norma" ever been arranged for the Grand Opera. "Norma" arranged in the grand French style would probably have included a sacred Druidical dance as a slow movement, followed by an allegro in the form of an ancient British jig. One curious effect of maintaining this hybrid style of performance has been to make thoughtless managers abroad mistake it for the true classical style. In England nothing forces us to spoil an Italian opera, and yet diversissements are constantly dragged into Italian operas at Covent Garden merely because the same kind of absurdity has been committed at the principal operatic theatre of Paris for the last two hundred years. Our critics ought now and then to protest against this violation of dramatic propriety. It is curious that the French, who objected for so long a time to the mixture of the comic with the tragic style in their dramas, should in their operas have tolerated the employment, side by side, not of two different styles, but of two entirely dramatic forms. There was, and is still, a similar incongruity in the so-called "comic operas" of the French, from which ballet is rigidly excluded, but in which opera, properly so called, is mixed up with spoken drama. This also is to be explained by the old system of licensing. French composers who had no opportunity of getting their works represented at the privileged Académie, sought refuge at a theatre where they were allowed to write songs, duets, and afterwards concerted pieces, in whatever form they chose, provided the work in which they were introduced did not assume the general form of an opera. The earlier "comic operas" of France are, as regards construction, little more than vaudevilles; but gradually the musical part of the Opéra Comique was developed to such an extent that at last Meyerbeer's "Etoile du Nord," though nominally an opera comique, required very little alteration to make it pass in London for what substantially it is—namely, a "grand opera."

Under the free theatrical system, lately introduced into France by the good sense and good taste of Napoleon III., every theatre is at liberty to play every kind of drama. The Grand Opera may, if it pleases, play "Norma" without Druidical dances; the Opéra Comique is no longer obliged to retain a certain amount of spoken dialogue in its musical productions; and the Italian Opera is empowered, for the first time, to give representations of ballets, for which purpose the director is said to have already retained an excellent troop.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE FINE ARTS has awarded its silver medal to Mr. Robert Buchanan, for "Undertones." The same author has in the press a volume of pastorals.

DR. LIVINGSTONE'S EXPEDITIONS IN AFRICA.

DR. LIVINGSTONE paid a visit to India on his way home from Africa, and while examining a school at Poona gave the following account of his exploring expeditions in Africa, in response to a request to state his opinion regarding the future prospects of the trade and civilisation of that part of the African continent which he had visited. Those prospects, Dr. Livingstone said, were not nearly so bright now as they had been when he arrived with the expedition at the mouth of the Zambesi River in 1855. They had procured the assistance and countenance of the Portuguese Government, and an order to its subordinates to give them every aid and support. The harbour was a remarkably fine one, and everything promised well when they made their first expedition up the river. They found the neighbouring country thickly peopled, and some caution was required to avoid any demonstration, lest they should be attacked from the banks with the arrows of the natives, who knew no Europeans but the Portuguese, and were not disposed from what they knew of them to give strangers a very friendly reception. When they came down, however, they found that these hostile feelings had disappeared, and that they were well received. The expedition was sent out by the English Universities, and accompanied by the excellent and devoted Bishop Mackenzie, who was so regardless of his own comfort that there is little doubt he lost his life thereby. The Portuguese had long carefully excluded all other Europeans from the country; he himself had obtained access to it on a former occasion by entering it from the south and coming down the river, when they could not, for very shame, compel him to go back. This was in 1856, and on his return, two years later, the expedition was allowed, without difficulty, to enter the country, as just stated. On ascending the river several cataracts were encountered, which Dr. Livingstone had not seen when he came down. On this account they took the direction of the Shire River, and ascended the beautiful valley of that name. It contained a thick population, flourishing villages, and fine cultivation. Above was an elevated plateau, some thousand feet above the sea, which strongly resembled the Deccan, except that it was covered with trees and grass, and which, like the valley, contained a large population. But about that time the Portuguese sold a quantity of firearms and ammunition to one of the tribes, to be paid for in slaves. The tribe, thus armed, swept through the neighbouring country like a scourge, killing the men in the villages and carrying off women and children into slavery. This produced a terrible famine, in which large numbers of the survivors perished, and the fine valley of the Shire was transformed literally into a valley of bones. Whole villages were found without people; it was impossible to walk half a mile without seeing a skeleton lying by the way, and you might open the door of a hut and find skeletons lying inside—sometimes two side by side, with a little skeleton between them. On another expedition they ascended the main stream of the Zambesi, passing thirty-five miles of rapids, and reached Lake Nyassa, which was 270 miles long and sixty or seventy wide. Above it was a range of hills, which proved, when they had ascended it, to be another plateau or table-land, nearly 4000 ft. high, extending for many miles, and filled with villages and cultivation. The government was of the patriarchal form, each village being entirely independent under its own head man or chief. They had no central government, and each chief had to be negotiated with separately. In one respect there was a great contrast to India, for there were slaves in every village chained up and working for their masters. They were inhabitants of other villages, who had been kidnapped and brought into captivity. They were held by a collar round the neck, to which a long stick was attached, and were thus secured for the night, or when made to travel pushed along by the proprietor, who held the other end of the stick and followed. Many of the slaves were quite little children, whose parents probably had been killed; for Dr. Livingstone did not believe that their mothers sold them. Their houses were like those made by the poorer natives of the villages in India. In reply to various questions, Dr. Livingstone, who seemed good-naturedly desirous to satisfy the curiosity of those present, stated that the cultivation by the African natives was very good, though it was entirely carried on with hoes. They were extremely industrious, and whole families worked in their gardens, which were often very large; men, women, and children, all together, an infant in addition being sometimes seen deposited under a hedge. They grew beans of all kinds, pumpkins, maize, and rice, but not wheat nor grain. Cotton they grew, spun, and wove themselves. They had no trade, except occasionally in tobacco, nor any idea of money, and the Europeans had to carry with them on the expedition a large quantity of calico, glass beads, and brass wire, for the purposes of trade; and here also they were liable to disappointment, for if the glass beads were not of the kind in fashion among the ladies of the village, they would not be taken on any account. The natives had no idea of letters, nor ever acquired any. Reading appeared to them a sort of witchcraft; and their visitors often amused themselves with the chiefs by writing a word in large letters and sticking it up, when one by one the members of the expedition would whisper it, without any previous consultation, into the ear of the chief, who felt an ever new surprise at the accomplishment. The people on the coasts were of the negro type, but with much variety of head and feature, and it must by no means be supposed that they all resembled the negroes outside the tobacco-shops in England. As a rule they all had what we should call rather flat noses. They, however, considered the noses of Europeans too sharp, and he (Dr. Livingstone) was not prepared to say which opinion was right. He thought that, by establishing a permanent British settlement, by gradually opening trade among them, and by the introduction of missions, their condition might be improved; but the occurrences he had described had for the present done much to hinder any measures of the sort.

MR. AND MRS. GERMAN REED'S ENTERTAINMENT.—The audiences continue to be both numerous and fashionable at this popular place of amusement. The combination of the "Pyramid" in a condensed form, the interlude of "The Bard and his Birthday," with its clever Shakespearean visions, and the new song of "The Seaside," or "Mrs. Roseleaf out of Town," in which the company upon the beach at a fashionable watering-place is humorously depicted, form an entertainment so varied in its features and excellent in itself that it can hardly fail to be attractive, even after a run of many months. The gallery closes before the end of the month, but will very soon reopen with a new Opera di Camera.

MUNIFICENT DONATION.—A benevolent lady has, through Messrs. Hoare, the bankers, of Fleet-street, forwarded to the National Life-boat Institution the very munificent donation of £5000 in aid of the general purposes of the society. This large sum will enable its committee to place eight or nine additional life-boats on the coast. The institution has already under its management about 140 life-boat establishments, which require about £7000 annually to keep in an effective state, averaging £50 per life-boat station. The institution's large life-saving fleet rescues on an average between 400 and 500 shipwrecked persons every year, and it grants rewards to the crews of fishing and other boats for rescuing about the same number of shipwrecked sailors.

DOGGETT'S COAT AND BADGE.—This annual scullers' race among watermen in the first year after their apprenticeship was decided on Monday, over the course between the Old Swan at London Bridge and the Old Swan at Chelsea. The competitors are annually drawn by lot at Fishmongers' Hall, and the prizes are a coat and badge, presented by Mr. Thomas Doggett (the celebrated comedian) to the first man, to which the Fishmongers' Company add one guinea; the second and third prizes are the gift of the late Sir William Jolliffe, left by will, and arising from the interest on £260 17s. 3d. Three per Cents Reduced, formerly £200 South Sea Stock—the second prize is five-eighths of the interest, £4 17s. 9d.; the third is the remaining three-eighths, £2 18s. 9d. The fourth prize is £1 11s. 6d.; and the fifth and sixth, a guinea each (provided they row the distance), the three last prizes being the gift of the Fishmongers' Company. Mr. Dards, bargemaster of the Fishmongers' Company, was, as usual, appointed umpire and starter. The various bridges, wharves, and the banks on both sides of the river, were literally crowded with spectators, and the Thames was crowded with small craft. The following were the six competitors, their stations (counting from the north shore), and the order in which they finished:—Station 4, David Coombes, Horselydown, 1; station 1, Frank Kibby, Old Barge-house, 2; station 2, Thomas Wittington, Legal-quays, 3; station 5, James Groves, Horselydown, 4; station 3, John Henry Darbey, Surry Canal, 5; station 6, George Charles Doo, Mortlake, 6. Coombes won, after a good race, by about ten lengths. The others nearly a mile astern.

IRELAND.

AN ECCENTRIC JUDGE.—The aged Judge Ball, of the Irish Bench, is attracting comment in the newspapers by his frivolous and absurd remarks in court. His Lordship seems to have infused a very lively dread of his rebukes into all around him. "The fear which he created among the constabulary force in attendance at the courthouse," says a local journal, "became contagious, and many private gentlemen whose business brought them into it contracted the disease. One gentleman became so nervous when he required to leave the court that he seemed for some time puzzled how he should effect his escape without being noticed by his Lordship. Finally, he divested himself of his long boots, placed them under his arms, and beat a retreat successfully." At Tralee there was another little "scene." During the hearing of a case the crier's wand, which had been lying up against the jury-box, fell on the floor, when his Lordship said, "Have that policeman and his truncheon removed at once." Mr. Mason—"My Lord, it was the wand that fell." His Lordship—"Whoever threw that down, I order him out of court. All through the circuit we were annoyed with policemen throwing their truncheons about: tell that man to go out immediately." A door was opened, and some person walked out. A colloquy that afterwards rose created some amusement. A witness swore that a "bed-tick" had been stolen from him, when Judge Ball said, "A what?" Mr. Gryott—"A bed-tick, my Lord." His Lordship—"A bedstead, is it?" Mr. Gryott—"A bed-tick, my Lord." "His Lordship—"A bedstick?" Mr. Henn—"A bed-tick, my Lord." His Lordship—"A bed-tick! I have it now."

DUBLIN EXHIBITION PALACE AND WINTER GARDEN.—The third half-yearly meeting of the Dublin Exhibition Palace and Winter Garden Company was held yesterday in their offices—Mr. Benjamin Lee Guinness, in the absence of the Duke of Leinster, occupying the chair. In moving the adoption of the report, Mr. Guinness gave an encouraging account of the progress of the building. Of its exterior every one he conversed with expressed the greatest admiration; it was really an honour and credit, as well as a very great ornament, to the city. The requirements of the musical world of Dublin had been fully considered by the directors. The large music-hall will be one of the finest in the kingdom. It will conveniently seat 3000 people, giving the public nearly double the accommodation now afforded by the Rotunda. The smaller concert-room also will be 300 superficial feet larger than the Ancient Concert-room in Great Brunswick-street. The difficulty of egress from that building is very great, ladies and gentlemen being often delayed a long time before they can reach their carriages. That difficulty will be obviated in the new hall, which will be approached by no less than eleven different doors opening into a colonnade upwards of 600 ft. in length, so that forty carriages can be drawn up at once to receive the company. The conservatory grew in grand proportions. It is built on ground, the length of which is 640 ft., its breadth from 84 ft. to 120 ft., and its height 65 ft. Numerous valuable contributions of plants have been received. In reference to the proposed International Exhibition, to be opened on the 1st of May next, it was remarked that Mr. Cardwell and Earl Russell had been very kind. The former wrote to the Governors of the Colonies asking their co-operation, and the latter wrote to the foreign Ministers requesting them to bring the matter before their respective Governments, and do what they could to promote the undertaking, which was the more likely to pay as there is to be no outlay for the erection of a building.

SCOTLAND.

SCOTTISH RECORDS.—The public will be gratified to learn that the Right Hon. Sir William Gibson-Craig, Lord Clerk Register of Scotland, has obtained the sanction of her Majesty's Government to a series of publications, long anxiously desired by men of letters on both sides of the Tweed, by which the national records and other materials of Scottish history under his charge will be made more easily and much more generally accessible than they have ever yet been. The details will, no doubt, be officially explained in due time; but we hear, in the meanwhile, that three principal objects are contemplated. The first, we understand, is the formation and publication of a series of calendars of the Records and State Papers of Scotland, from the beginning of the reign of King James IV., in the year 1488, to the Union with England in the year 1707. The second, we believe, is the publication of a series of Chronicles and Memorials of Scotland during the Middle Ages, or from the earliest Scottish annals to the end of the reign of King James V., in the year 1542. The third, as has already partly transpired, is the publication of facsimiles of the more interesting and important Scottish historical documents, from the beginning of record in Scotland in the eleventh century to the union with England in the beginning of the eighteenth. These facsimiles will be executed at the Ordnance Survey Office at Southampton by the same newly-discovered process of photolithography by which facsimiles of Domesday Book, Magna Charta, and other remarkable English records and historical documents have been produced. The calendars and the chronicles and memorials will be uniform in every respect with the series of English Calendars and Chronicles now appearing under the direction of the Master of Rolls in England. But they will be published, along with photolithography facsimiles, as a distinct Scottish series, under the direction of the Lord Clerk Register of Scotland.—*Scotman.*

THE PROVINCES.

STRIKE IN THE BUILDING TRADE AT BRADFORD.—The journeymen carpenters and joiners at Bradford, numbering about 500, have struck work. The great point of difference between the masters and the men is that the former refuse to agree, without reasonable notice, to a reduction of the hours of labour from fifty-nine at present to fifty-five hours and a half per week. The masters are willing that the proposed reduction shall come into operation on the 1st of March next, but the men insisted that it should come into operation on the 1st inst. The masters have proposed to refer the matter in dispute to arbitration. The building trade is very brisk at Bradford, and some of the masters have contracts on hand which will occupy them eight or nine months.

INTERESTING ANTIQUARIAN RESEARCHES.—Some very interesting explorations have recently been made at Richborough Castle. A few feet below the surface there has been discovered a platform of stonework, some five or six feet thick, with a superficies of something like 120 feet square. This is supported by a mass of masonry about sixty feet square, and piercing to a depth which no excavation has yet reached. Nearly three sides of this block have been exposed by excavations of former years, and now a fourth has been nearly completed. Other interesting discoveries have also been made at this spot; but as to the purpose of the structure antiquaries are divided in opinion.

HORRIBLE ACCIDENT AT A COLLIERY NEAR BOLTON.—On Saturday last an inquest was held at Bolton, to inquire into the cause of death of Charles Donnelly, a "sinker," employed in the colliery belonging to Messrs. A. Knowles and Sons, at Darcy Lever. It appeared that the deceased was at work on the afternoon of the day previous at the bottom of the shaft of a new pit, 390 yards deep. About five o'clock a noise was heard as of something falling down the shaft, and the men employed got out of the way as well as they could, and another man lying down upon some bricks. The substance which fell down proved to be a pole of timber about 13 ft. long and between two and three inches thick, and in falling it had struck against the sides and broken into several pieces. A piece about 2 ft. long struck the deceased on the side just under the ribs, and such was the force of the blow that the stake went through his body, coming out of his belly, on the other side. The unfortunate man was immediately removed to the Bolton Infirmary, where he died in about five minutes after his admission. The stake was so firmly fixed in the body that some of the workmen who came to his assistance attempted to pull it out, but were unable to do so, and the surgeons in attendance declared they never knew of a similar occurrence. Deceased has left a wife and five children.

A COMPANY of influential and wealthy individuals has been formed in New York for privateering, under whatever flag will afford them the desired protection. The present position of Spain and Peru gives them hopes that the flag of Peru will serve them, and that it will not be long before Spanish commerce will afford them the means of profit. Already six steamers are named, some of them being the fastest of the Clyde-built steamers captured by the Federal blockaders and sold at the Prize Commissioners' sales.

COMPENSATION FOR RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—On Tuesday an Act of Parliament was printed to amend the law respecting compensation to families for railway accidents. By Lord Campbell's Act, as it is generally called, an action must be brought for a death by an accident within six months, in the name of the executor or administrator of the deceased. It may happen that a default occurs, or that the executor is unwilling to bring the action. Such action may now, however, be brought in the name of the parties entitled to receive compensation. By the same Act the jury had to apportion the money to be awarded, and a company could not pay an amount into court. It is now provided that one sum in the matter be sufficient to be paid into court, and, if the jury consider the same sufficient, then the verdict on the issue to be for the defendants. The alterations now made are of an important character in railway and other accidents.

MULE AND DONKEY SHOW.—A show of donkeys and mules, which it is intended to hold next week at the Islington Agricultural Hall, with a view of encouraging kindly treatment to those humble and hard-working animals, will be under the patronage of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the Earl of Clarendon, the Earl of Harrowby, and many others of the nobility. There will be eight classes, comprising foreign mules, English mules, foreign donkeys, English donkeys, and several classes of these animals "used in business." The prizes in each of the first two classes are—first, a silver cup; second, £7; and third, £3. The other prizes vary in amount from £5 to £1 in each class, besides which the owners of the "highly-commended" donkeys in the classes confined to those animals "used in business" will receive a certificate and a small pecuniary allowance. Miss Burdett Coutts and other philanthropic ladies and gentlemen have given their warm support to this movement, hoping thereby to establish kindly relations between the donkey and his usually rough master.

LAW AND CRIME.

AN Act of the present Session remits the stamp duty upon grants of probate and letters of administration upon estates not exceeding £100. This will be a merciful concession to many poor families. There yet remains in reference to the Probate Court practice one needful reform as to letters of administration; and this is a matter affecting poor and rich alike. Every administrator is compelled to find sureties to execute a bond for double the amount of personal property of the intestate. To a poor person seeking to administer even a small estate this obligation, if strictly enforced, would frequently present an insuperable difficulty. In the case of a large estate this obstacle would be proportionately increased. If it could not be easily evaded, it would lead to fearful waste of assets by preventing the representation of deceased persons. But in practice it is nugatory; since a few shillings generally suffice for the procurement of needy bondsmen to any required amount. But, then, what is the use of the administration bond? A consent of one or more of the parties interested in distribution, beyond the administrator, would in the majority of cases answer the purpose much better, and save the necessity for what is usually as great a nullity as any legal fiction exploded by the practical common-sense of modern days.

The man who by his rudeness to a young lady in a railway carriage drove her to hazard her life by escaping to an adjoining compartment has been convicted of the assault and sentenced to nine months' hard labour. It is a sad business; and one is almost compelled to hope that the verdict of the jury was a just one. But it must be remembered that the evidence against him was solely that of a young lady, entertaining, to her honour be it written, the most refined regard for delicacy. In some cases, such sentiments might easily become aggravated into irrational timidity; while, upon the other hand, the indignation and just punishment with which her assailant has been visited might afford to a very different kind of young person an opportunity for atrocious scheming. The middle-aged honest male passenger will hardly know which sex to dread most should he chance to be closed in a carriage with a single strange companion. This case, viewed under all its aspects, pleads as strongly as that of poor Mr. Briggs for some better system of railway-carriage, by which the recurrence of either class of offence may be rendered impossible.

Richard Kiley, a ticket-of-leave man, was charged before Mr. Norton with swindling. In 1853 he was sentenced to fifteen years' transportation for forgery. In 1857 he was released on a ticket of leave. In 1859 he was again committed, for sufficient cause, to serve out his original sentence. He was, nevertheless, again at large in 1861; and now he reappears, charged with wholesale frauds. It is not a little characteristic that one of the charges against him was that of obtaining gin to the value of seven hundred pounds from a confiding distiller, who prudently avoids the full disclosure of his folly by declining to prosecute.

The Surrey Assizes have this week been held at Guildford, to the great delight of that peculiar class of attorneys who rejoice in the chance of two guineas a day travelling and tavern expenses for watching the cause-list, and whose business can very well allow of their absence thirty miles from town. Upwards of a hundred causes were entered for trial. Not the least obviously disreputable of the incidents of a Surrey Assize is the anxiety with which certain members of the profession struggle to place their causes as low down as possible upon the list, apparently with the object of increasing the costs by dangling about the assize town. County assizes were certainly never instituted for the purposes to which some modern practitioners apply them; and we trust that we may live to see this system, one of the most flagrant evils of unscrupulous litigation, put down by the force of judicial remonstrance. In all probability, out of the hundred causes set down this week at Guildford, there were not a dozen in which the cause of action arose within fifteen miles of the county town, or even within five miles of Westminster Hall.

The Rev. Mr. J. M. Rawlins, formerly of Mersham, applied to the Court of Bankruptcy for his discharge. His debts were upwards of £2000, and his assets £15. He was represented as having been a literary man and unfortunate in literary speculations. He had lost a large sum by the purchase of the *Literary Gazette*, which failed in his hands. Mr. Commissioner Goulburn treated the case with some verbal severity, but with great judicial clemency; as, after describing the bankrupt as "a mere adventurer, living by loans," the learned Commissioner allowed Mr. Rawlins to take his discharge, in default of opposition by his creditors.

A man was indicted at Guildford upon a charge of having assaulted a married woman, one of his fellow-servants. He had put his arm round her waist and kissed her. He was tried at the last Assizes on a more serious charge and acquitted. He had suffered three weeks' imprisonment before trial; but the Judge on that occasion directed that he should be again indicted for a common assault. Of this he was convicted, before Mr. Justice Willes, on Wednesday. What follows is remarkable. The learned Judge dwelt upon all the mitigating circumstances of the offence, adverted to the fact of the long previous imprisonment, and to the unusual circumstance of the prisoner having suffered two trials for the same offence. The intention alleged in the first indictment was, said his Lordship, quite out of the question. His Lordship could only account for the second indictment upon the hypothesis that the matter involved a question of the character of the woman. He said that the case was one in which he scarcely thought he should be justified in inflicting only a fine, but that still it did not call for a severe imprisonment. And after thus leading the prisoner, and perhaps every sensible person in court, to expect a mere nominal sentence, his Lordship condemned the man to six weeks' hard labour in the House of Correction. All for a kiss! The prisoner seemed staggered at his sentence, and so certainly were we, who happened to hear it delivered.

The engineer and fireman tried for manslaughter on the occasion of the railway collision at Egham were acquitted by the jury. The Judge, Mr. Justice Willes, throughout the case intimated his opinion that these subordinates were far less to blame than the managers of the railway, who had brought about the disaster by their directions as to the traffic. The jury adopted this view, and did not require to hear the reply of the prisoners' counsel.

THE SUMMER ASSIZES.

DAMAGES OF £3000 AGAINST A RAILWAY COMPANY.—In the High Court at Manchester, on Saturday, Mr. H. E. Nicholson, under twenty years of age, a traveller for a firm of silk manufacturers, brought an action against the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company to recover compensation for injuries sustained in a collision between two trains on the line of the defendants at the Victoria railway-station, and in consequence of their servants' negligence. The collision took place on the 29th of October last year, and the effects of it on the plaintiff were to render him a cripple for life and a mere wreck of his former self. The defendants did not deny the negligence of their servants, or the severe injury that had been inflicted on the plaintiff. They merely pleaded mitigation of damages.

The jury found a verdict for the plaintiff—damages, £3000, being £1000 more than the plaintiff asked for.

ACTION FOR FALSE IMPRISONMENT.—At Maidstone, on Saturday, before Mr. Baron Martin and a special jury, a young woman named Carley brought an action against a farmer named Slaughter for having wrongfully and maliciously given her into custody on a charge of arson.

It appears that the defendant's house was found to be on fire, on Sept. 22, in two places, but the flames were extinguished before any great harm was done. Suspicion fell, or was cast, upon the complainant, who was in the service of the defendant and had received notice of discharge from his wife on the day preceding the fire. The police took plaintiff into custody, and she was committed for trial, being, however, liberated on bail, and ultimately acquitted at the Spring Assizes.

After the evidence had been heard, Mr. Serjeant Parry, who appeared for the plaintiff, said that it was clear the defendant had reasonable grounds for suspecting the plaintiff, and, as she had now attained her principal object in bringing the action—viz., asserting her innocence upon oath—he would not proceed further with the case.

Mr. Baron Martin approved this course, and a juror was withdrawn.

POLICE.

BAD SPECULATION IN CHEAP HORSEFLESH.—Thomas Yarrow, of Brook-street, Holborn, was charged with active cruelty.

Two witnesses while in High-street, Hoxton, saw the defendant labouring a pony drawing a truck cart, containing not only vegetables from the morning market, but himself and a woman. Sores, lameness, and complete debility fairly constituted it the property of the knacker, apart from the cruelty of beating it deposed to.

Defendant assured the magistrate that he had been taken in by the purchase of the pony two days previously—he had actually under false representation given in hard cash as much as 28s. for it; but he was quite willing to have it killed.

The magistrate told him that not only must this be done, but he must also pay 20s. fine.

The penalty was paid.

BEGINNING BETIMES.—Jane Berkley, fourteen years of age, was charged with having, in company with Eliza Barclay, of the same age, robbed a shopkeeper.

Eliza Hanzell, King's-road, Chelsea, hoisier, said that the two prisoners entered the shop on Saturday, and requested to be shown some stockings. While they were upon the counter, Barclay said to the other girl, "Have you got your purse?" and, upon her replying in the negative, told her to go home and fetch it, and Barclay immediately left, and after an absence of a few minutes returned, and said that their mother was coming to measure the stockings. A silk scarf which had been on the counter a short time before was then missed, and the girls both endeavoured to get away, but Berkley was then captured, and being brought to this court was remanded to a future day.

A Police-constable apprehended the prisoner Berkley in Old Pye-street, Westminster. On searching her, he found the missing scarf, some new stays, and other articles of wearing apparel.

Mr. Arnold asked whether owners had been found for the latter property.

The police replied that there had not as yet, although there could be very little doubt that the things had been stolen. The prisoner had given no account whatever of how she became possessed of the things, which were very good.

The mother of the prisoner, a creditable-looking woman, was present, and said that she had not seen her daughter for a fortnight. She had suddenly left her home then, and she had no idea where she had been spending her time or how she lived.

The prisoner was remanded, to be brought up with the other girl.

SHANGHAING A SEAMAN.—On Saturday evening, Howland, a police-constable, and one of the summoning-officers of the Thames Police Court, reported to Mr. Paget the result of inquiries relating to George La Pierre, a British seaman, who went out in the English ship *Universe*, and who said he was kidnapped in New York by some runners and crimps, imprisoned for one night in a house, and taken on board the American ship *Caroline Nasmith*, in which he was obliged to work as a seaman to London without wages and without clothes, except those he stood upright in. Howland believed that the representations of the seaman were in the main correct. The chief mate of the *Caroline Nasmith* admitted that the seaman had been "shanghaied" at New York, meaning that he was brought on board drunk after being kidnapped at New York, and that it was quite common there. The seaman complained that he had been shanghaied after the vessel got to sea, and that he could not do much work as he was afflicted with a bad leg. The mate added that he thought there would be a piece of work in England about the queer way the man was brought on board in New York. Howland afterwards saw Captain Cotter, master of the *Caroline Nasmith*, who said that he paid eighty dollars to an agent in New York to bring a man on board, and that La Pierre was a deserter from the ship and owed him fifty dollars. The captain admitted it was very probable the seaman had not received any money, but he had nothing to do with that. He asked Captain Cotter if the seaman had signed any articles of agreement. To which the captain replied in the affirmative. He asked to see the articles, and the captain said they were "up town," and he could not see them. Howland said the seaman was in a wretched plight, and had no change of clothes or linen, and that he had, by direction of the magistrate, provided him with board and lodging at a coffee-house in Stepney. The seaman wanted to reach Liverpool, where the ship *Universe*, in which he sailed from England, was lying. The man's wife was also living there. A society for the protection of sailors, with which Marquis Townshend was connected, had sent to him for particulars of La Pierre's case, and meant to interfere in his behalf.

Mr. Paget said the sailor's case appeared to be a very hard one, for he was prevented from joining his own ship at New York, lost his clothes, and was kidnapped and sent on board an American ship, and did not receive a farthing of wages. He directed Howland to continue his care of the sailor for the present, and he would decide in a few days what was to be done with him.

La Pierre, who is a native of Quebec, thanked the magistrate for the interest he had taken in his unfortunate case.

OF THE NAME OF MÜLLER.—A young German, named Paul Müller, was charged before Mr. Vaughan with having been found in a house in Hanover-street, Long-acre, under the following circumstances.

Mrs. Samuel, of Hanover-street, wife of a cigar manufacturer, stated that she was in bed with her husband on the morning of the 27th ult., at about five or six, when, suddenly waking, she saw the prisoner standing at the side of her bed with his boots in his hand. She called out, and her husband immediately got up and dressed, and went out for a constable. She asked the prisoner what he wanted there, and he replied; but, as he spoke German, she could not understand what he said. Presently her husband returned with a constable, and the prisoner was given into charge. The house had not been broken into. The prisoner was a stranger to her, and there were no lodgers in the house, or anyone whom he could have desired to see.

SWIFT AND SURE.—Charles Swift, forty-six, butcher, was charged with knowingly uttering a bad half-crown to Sarah Ann Martin, barmaid to Henry Fordham, landlord of the Three Colts public-house, in Cambridge-road, Bethnal-green.

The evidence went to show that prisoner paid with a one shilling piece for some liquor served to him at the bar, and duly received change, the coin being put into the till with other money. Shortly afterwards he returned, made another purchase, and received change for a half-crown he laid down, but immediately he had done so complained that one of the shillings was bad, and therefore it was exchanged. Probably it was the identical shilling he had paid with in the first transaction, but that, of course, could not be sworn to. Prisoner left, and scarcely a minute had elapsed when the half-crown was seen to be bad. It was the only one in the till, and his movements were watched. This resulted in his apprehension.

Mrs. Eliza Orchest, of the Carpenters' Arms, likewise in the Cambridge-road, preferred a charge against the prisoner of knowingly tendering a base shilling. It appeared that on leaving the Three Colts he proceeded direct to the Carpenters' Arms, paid one penny for a half-pint of porter, quitted the house, and, returning, tendered a one shilling piece in payment for some tobacco. By accident it dropped among the halfpence in the till, and after he had left with the change it was examined by the prosecutor in the first case, and found to be spurious. He was overtaken and given into custody of a police-constable, who saw him throw away a paper containing two bad half-crowns and a good shilling.

Mr. Safford, the clerk, remarked that the half-crown pieces bore, as was generally the fact, the date of 1819, apparently a favourite one with coiners.

Prisoner could not offer any defence under the singular circumstances of identity in both cases, and was remanded.

A POLICEMAN ON NIGHT DUTY.—Charlotte Corlies was charged as under:—

Mrs. Emily Cross, 27, Talbot-terrace, Paddington, said:—The prisoner is my cook. Last night I returned home with my husband about half-past eleven, and she (prisoner) said it was too late an hour for us to stop out. I told her to go to bed, and she said she would not go quietly. She created a very great disturbance—calling "Murder," and making use of bad language. As I was getting into bed she struck me in my side, and I had to go and get a policeman.

Prisoner (with a dignified air)—I went into the service with an arrangement that I should sleep with my daughter. I do not like the proceedings going on in the house, although I do not exactly know what is wrong. This day week I wanted my money and leave.

Hammond, 373 A—At half-past one this morning I saw the lady in the street in her night-dress. I went with her and saw the prisoner in the passage with her nightcap on, and she struck her mistress in my presence. I took the prisoner up to her bed-room.

Mr. Yardley—Did you put her to bed, tuck her in, and tie her nightcap on?

Hammond—No, Sir. She would not go to bed, so I locked her up.

Mr. Yardley—I have no control over the police out of this court. So far as I am concerned, they can exercise the new function of putting as many old women to bed as they think proper, and also assist them by tucking them in; but I have control here, and I won't have the time taken up by such a case as this. The constable was where he ought not to be when he saw the assault committed. It was that alone that gave him the power to take her into custody. (To Mrs. Cross)—Why not pay her her wages and let her go?

This suggestion was adopted, and the prisoner discharged.

DEFENCE OF A HOUSE AND CAPTURE OF BURGLARS.

A gallant capture of two burglars while in the act of packing up their booty has just been made at Stanford, Worcestershire. The thieves have been safely lodged in prison. The names of the men are Charles Karr, of Dunsford, and George Smith, of Lambeth. Last Saturday night Mr. Evans, a general dealer, of Stanford-bridge, was awake by hearing a noise in the lower part of his house, and, believing that thieves had broken into his premises, he hastily put on his clothes, armed himself with a revolver which he kept loaded in his bed-room, and went down stairs. There he found in the shop the prisoners, occupied in packing up a number of articles of wearing apparel. Mr. Evans proceeded towards them, when one of them advanced in a threatening manner, whereupon Mr. Evans presented his pistol and fired. The shot took effect, and the man staggered and fell. His companion, however, called upon him to resist, and on his getting up again both men advanced upon Mr. Evans, and a desperate struggle ensued, the latter defending himself with great bravery, beating his assailants about the head with his revolver, and finally knocking both the men down. While this was going on Mrs. Evans raised an alarm, and the men were detained until the arrival of the police, when they were safely secured, and on Monday were taken before a magistrate and remanded. A surgeon was called in, and found that the thieves had been severely punished. Both had wounds on the head from Mr. Evans's pistol butt, and Smith had received seven shots in the side. They had got into the premises by breaking a pane of the kitchen window. About 7s. in copper and 14lb. of tobacco were found upon them when searched by the police. Both money and tobacco had been stolen from Mr. Evans's shop.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

CONSIDERABLE inactivity has continued to prevail in the market for all National Securities, and the quotations have had a tendency to be lower. The following are the rates:—Consolidated, 118 ex div.; 3 per Cent, 89½; 4 per Cent, 90½; 5 per Cent, 91½; 6 per Cent, 92½; 7 per Cent, 93½; 8 per Cent, 94½; 9 per Cent, 95½; 10 per Cent, 96½; 11 per Cent, 97½; 12 per Cent, 98½; 13 per Cent, 99½; 14 per Cent, 100½; 15 per Cent, 101½; 16 per Cent, 102½; 17 per Cent, 103½; 18 per Cent, 104½; 19 per Cent, 105½; 20 per Cent, 106½; 21 per Cent, 107½; 22 per Cent, 108½; 23 per Cent, 109½; 24 per Cent, 110½; 25 per Cent, 111½; 26 per Cent, 112½; 27 per Cent, 113½; 28 per Cent, 114½; 29 per Cent, 115½; 30 per Cent, 116½; 31 per Cent, 117½; 32 per Cent, 118½; 33 per Cent, 119½; 34 per Cent, 120½; 35 per Cent, 121½; 36 per Cent, 122½; 37 per Cent, 123½; 38 per Cent, 124½; 39 per Cent, 125½; 40 per Cent, 126½; 41 per Cent, 127½; 42 per Cent, 128½; 43 per Cent, 129½; 44 per Cent, 130½; 45 per Cent, 131½; 46 per Cent, 132½; 47 per Cent, 133½; 48 per Cent, 134½; 49 per Cent, 135½; 50 per Cent, 136½; 51 per Cent, 137½; 52 per Cent, 138½; 53 per Cent, 139½; 54 per Cent, 140½; 55 per Cent, 141½; 56 per Cent, 142½; 57 per Cent, 143½; 58 per Cent, 144½; 59 per Cent, 145½; 60 per Cent, 146½; 61 per Cent, 147½; 62 per Cent, 148½; 63 per Cent, 149½; 64 per Cent, 150½; 65 per Cent, 151½; 66 per Cent, 152½; 67 per Cent, 153½; 68 per Cent, 154½; 69 per Cent, 155½; 70 per Cent, 156½; 71 per Cent, 157½; 72 per Cent, 158½; 73 per Cent, 159½; 74 per Cent, 160½; 75 per Cent, 161½; 76 per Cent, 162½; 77 per Cent, 163½; 78 per Cent, 164½; 79 per Cent, 165½; 80 per Cent, 166½; 81 per Cent, 167½; 82 per Cent, 168½; 83 per Cent, 169½; 84 per Cent, 170½; 85 per Cent, 171½; 86 per Cent, 172½; 87 per Cent, 173½; 88 per Cent, 174½; 89 per Cent, 175½; 90 per Cent, 176½; 91 per Cent, 177½; 92 per Cent, 178½; 93 per Cent, 179½; 94 per Cent, 180½; 95 per Cent, 181½; 96 per Cent, 182½; 97 per Cent, 183½; 98 per Cent, 184½; 99 per Cent, 185½; 100 per Cent, 186½; 101 per Cent, 187½; 102 per Cent, 188½; 103 per Cent, 189½; 104 per Cent, 190½; 105 per Cent, 191½; 106 per Cent, 192½; 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157 per Cent, 243½; 158 per Cent, 244½; 159 per Cent, 245½; 160 per Cent, 246½; 161 per Cent, 247½; 162 per Cent, 248½; 163 per Cent, 249½; 164 per Cent, 250½; 165 per Cent, 251½; 166 per Cent, 252½; 167 per Cent, 253½; 168 per Cent, 254½; 169 per Cent, 255½; 170 per Cent, 256½; 171 per Cent, 257½; 172 per Cent, 258½; 173 per Cent, 259½; 174 per Cent, 260½; 175 per Cent, 261½; 176 per Cent, 262½; 177 per Cent, 263½; 178 per Cent, 264½; 179 per Cent, 265½; 180 per Cent, 266½; 181 per Cent, 267½; 182 per Cent, 268½; 183 per Cent, 269½; 184 per Cent, 270½; 185 per Cent, 271½; 186 per Cent, 272½; 187 per Cent, 273½; 188 per Cent, 274½; 189 per Cent, 275½; 190 per Cent, 276½; 191 per Cent, 277½; 192 per Cent, 278½; 193 per Cent, 279½; 194 per Cent, 280½; 195 per Cent, 281½; 196 per Cent, 282½; 197 per Cent, 283½; 198 per Cent, 284½; 199 per Cent, 285½; 200 per Cent, 286½; 201 per Cent, 287½; 202 per Cent, 288½; 203 per Cent, 289½; 204 per Cent, 290½; 205 per Cent, 291½; 206 per Cent, 292½; 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